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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

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for the
VOODOO
CHIEF

THE
GHOST IN
THE SHOW
WINDOW

LADY OF DEATH



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SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

MAY 1971

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THE GHOST IN THE SHOW WINDOW



THEIR MARRIAGE WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE, PEOPLE WHISPERED--**RAY MANNING**, BRILLIANT AND FIERY YOUNG SCULPTOR, AND **EVE LAWSON**, BEAUTIFUL AND TEMPERAMENTAL STAR OF THE SILVER SCREEN! BUT BEHIND THEIR EXPLOSIVE CLASHES LURKED LOVE-- A LOVE THAT TRANSCENDED EVEN **DEATH ITSELF**! HERE'S A STRANGE STORY OF A NEW KIND OF GHOST-- THE TENSE TALE OF **THE SPECTER IN THE SHOW-WINDOW!**

IT'S AN ODD TIME TO LOOK IN ON THE MANNINGS-- AT THE END OF ONE OF THEIR BITTER QUARRELS--

I'M LEAVING, RAY-- THIS IS FINAL! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU-- AND I'M FLYING TO PARIS TONIGHT!

THAT SUITS ME FINE-- EXCEPT MAYBE PARIS ISN'T FAR ENOUGH!



OH, NO? YOU INSUFFERABLE HEEL-- I-- I HATE YOU!



WHY I EVER MARRIED A VIXEN LIKE YOU-- GET OUT!



SHE'S-- GONE,
SIR! HOW
DREADFUL!

FORGET IT, BERTHA-- SHE'LL
BE BACK! EVE ALWAYS
COMES BACK!

BUT
THIS
TIME--
EVE
DIDN'T
RETURN!

WORD HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED THAT
A PARIS-BOUND AIRLINER HAS JUST
CRASHED IN FLAMES IN NEWFOUND-
LAND, WITH NO SURVIVORS! AMONG
THE DEAD WAS THE FAMOUS
ACTRESS, EVE LAWSON---

NO-NO!

RAY WAS GRIEF-STRICKEN -- UNCONSOLABLE --

IT WAS MY FAULT
FOR LETTING HER
GO -- I KILLED
HER! I MURDERED
THE ONLY WOMAN
I EVER LOVED!

AND SO THE GREAT SCULPTOR ISOLATED
HIMSELF IN HIS STUDIO -- REFUSING
ALL COMMISSIONS--

PLEASE, SIR--
YOU'VE GOT TO
EAT SOME-
THING!

WITHOUT HER-- LIVING
DEATH! IF ONLY I COULD
SEE HER BEFORE ME JUST
ONCE AGAIN-- RECREATE
HER IMAGE--

SLOWLY, THE
FANTASTIC
NOTION SPREAD
THROUGH HIS
MIND! RE-
CREATE EVE--
WHY NOT?
FEVERISHLY
HE THREW
HIMSELF INTO
THE STRANGE
PROJECT-- AND
BENEATH THE
HANDS OF
THE MASTER,
A BODY
TOOK FORM--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE WORKING ON, MR.
MANNING-- BUT CAN IT
MATCH THE \$10,000
COMMISSION I'M
OFFERING YOU?

I DON'T WANT
YOUR WORK!
THIS-- IT'S MY--
MASTERPIECE!

FINALLY, TINGED WITH THE BREATH OF
LIFE, A GREAT STATUE WAS CRE-
ATED! THE FLESH WAS TINTED--
THE EYES COLORED-- A WIG PRO-
VIDED! AND BEFORE ASTOUNDED
ONLOOKERS -- THERE EMERGED--
EVE!

IT'S-- UNCANNY!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW
THE TRUTH, I'D
SAY THAT EVE
WAS HERE--
ALIVE!

I COULD
ALMOST
SWEAR THAT
RAY THINKS
SO!

GOODBYE! EVE AND
I ARE GLAD THAT
YOU COULD COME!
LIKE OLD TIMES,
ISN'T IT?

BRRR! THAT
THING GIVES
ME THE
SHUDDERS!

FROM THEN ON, ALL RAY'S WAKING MOMENTS WERE SPENT WITH THE DEAD WOMAN'S STATUE! HE REFUSED ALL WORK--DRIFTED TOWARD BANKRUPTCY--

HE WON'T SEE YOU-- WON'T SEE **ANYBODY!** JUST STARES AT THAT THING-- EVEN **TALKS** TO IT! I'M QUITTING TONIGHT--HE CAN'T EVEN PAY MY SALARY! A GENIUS LIKE **HIM--** WHO COULD MAKE A FORTUNE IF HE WANTED TO!



BUT THERE WAS NO FORTUNE FOR RAY MANNING, FOR POVERTY SOON BECAME HIS LOT! HE'D EVEN GOTTEN TO KNOW HUNGER WHEN A WEALTHY DEPARTMENT STORE OWNER CAME TO HIM WITH A STRANGE PROPOSITION--

MR. MANNING, WED LIKE TO NAME ONE OF OUR NEW GOWN CREATIONS AFTER YOUR LATE WIFE! AND TO PUBLICIZE IT, WE WANT TO RENT THAT WONDERFUL STATUE-- **FOR WINDOW DISPLAY PURPOSES!**

WHAT? PUT EVE IN A STORE WINDOW-- FOR CURIOUS CROWDS TO STARE AT? NEVER-- I'D DIE FIRST!



BE REASONABLE--WE'RE WILLING TO PAY HIGH! AND BESIDES, REMEMBER THAT SHE WAS A GREAT ACTRESS, AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES WERE HER LIFE! YOU COULD ALMOST CALL THIS A **TRIBUTE** TO HER!

NO-- EVE ISN'T FOR RENT! GET OUT, DO YOU HEAR ME-- **GET OUT!**



BUT STARVATION IS A STERN TASKMASTER--AND FINALLY--

THANKS, MR. MANNING-- HERE'S YOUR CHECK-- FOR ONE MONTH'S RENTAL!

I CAN'T WATCH HER BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM ME-- AGAIN!



THE VERY NEXT WEEK-- IT HAPPENED! FROM OUT OF THE GREAT BEYOND--

WHO'S THERE? WHO-- **WHO ARE YOU?**

NOW **THAT'S** A SMART QUESTION! **WHO AM I!** YOU BIRD-BRAIN, DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE **DONE** BY MAKING THE STATUE SO PERFECT?



YOU TIED ME TO THIS EARTH, THAT'S ALL! I DIDN'T MIND IT SO MUCH BEING HERE IN THIS STUDIO-- IN FACT, I RATHER **ENJOYED** IT! BUT NOW YOU HAVE THE COOL, BRAZEN NERVE TO RENT ME TO A STORE FOR **MONEY!** TO MAKE ME SIT IN A COLD WINDOW, DAY AND NIGHT, WHILE GAWKING MORONS STARE AT ME!



HASTILY, RAY FLED THE STUDIO-- CONVINCED THAT HE MUST BE OUT OF HIS MIND!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- I MUST BE DREAMING OR CRAZY! THAT **COULDN'T** BE EVE! TRUE, I WAS FASCINATED BY THE STATUE-- BUT **GHOSTS** DON'T EXIST!

THEY **DON'T**, EH? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU, YOU STUBBORN, PINHEADED IMBECILE-- **TAKE THAT!**



WHEN RAY RETURNED THE NEXT MORNING--

GOOD GRIEF, LOOK AT THE **MESS!** DISHES
BROKEN, DRAPES SLASHED-- IT-- IT'S **EXACTLY**
WHAT EVE WOULD HAVE DONE!



THIS TIME, SURE THAT HIS SANITY WAS
GOING, HE VISITED A PSYCHIATRIST --

VERY INTERESTING, MR. MANNING-- BUT, OF COURSE, ALL THESE THINGS
YOU DESCRIBE DIDN'T ACTUALLY
HAPPEN! IT'S MERELY A WISH-
FULFILLMENT -- YOU WANT YOUR
WIFE BACK SO BADLY THAT
YOU **IMAGINE** YOU SEE HER!

IT'S A
RELIEF
TO HEAR
YOU SAY
THAT, DOCTOR!
I ---



NO-- SHE'S
THERE!
RIGHT
BEHIND
YOU!

HMM... THIS IS SERIOUS!--
TOM! MARTIN! IN
HERE-- QUICK!

STOP! WHAT ARE YOU
DOING? I TELL YOU I
SAW HER-- RIGHT HERE
IN THIS OFFICE!

OF COURSE,
YOU DID, MR.
MANNING-- NOW
JUST RELAX!



LATER, IN A PRIVATE HOSPITAL
FOR MENTAL CASES--

DR. MAIN WANTS A CLOSE
OBSERVATION KEPT ON THIS
CASE -- IT'S A MOST
PECULIAR ONE! HE'S THE
FAMOUS SCULPTOR, RAY
MANNING! GRIEF
OVER HIS WIFE'S
DEATH IS
RESPONSIBLE...

YE GODS--
I'M IN AN
**INSANE
ASYLUM!**



HE SEEMS TO BE ASLEEP--
I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO
LEAVE HIM!

AM I
REALLY
OUT OF MY
HEAD? I
COULD
SWEAR
I SAW
EVE!

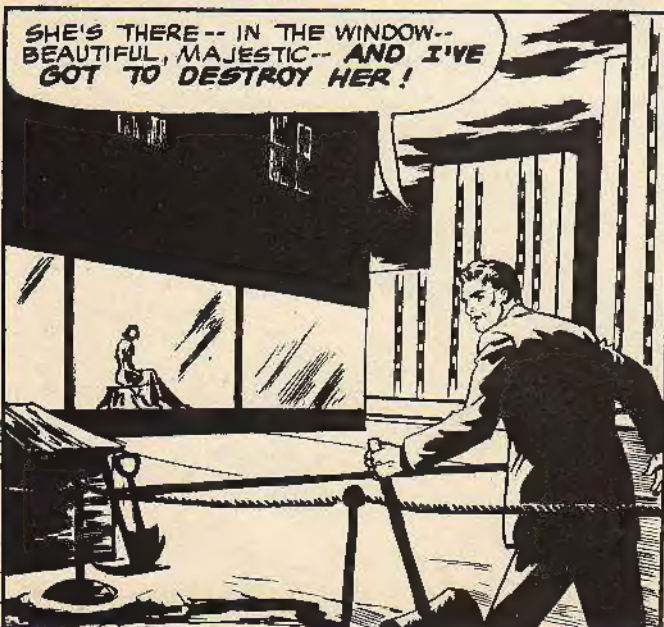
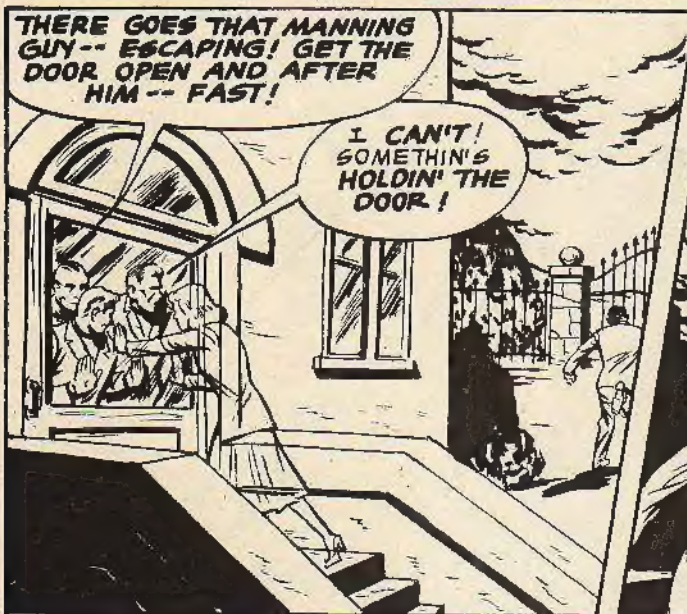
OF COURSE
YOU SAW ME,
DARLING!



EVE--
YOU'RE
REAL!

NO-- JUST A **GHOST!**
YOU'RE HOLDING ME
CHAINED TO THE EARTH,
RAY-- AND I CRAVE
RELEASE! TO DO IT--
**YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK
THAT STATUE
TO BITS!**







APOLLO'S *fatal* GLOVES

FROM OUT OF THE PAST-- A STRANGE PAIR OF GLOVES! INTENDED FOR GOOD, THEY BECAME THE INSTRUMENTS OF INCREDIBLE **EVIL** -- WHILE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE-- AND AN ANCIENT GREEK GOD-- STROVE TO THWART AN INHUMAN FIEND!

SEE? THE GLOVES HAVE MADE ME INVINCIBLE-- THE PERFECT KILLER!



THE BEGINNING WAS ALMOST THE END-- AS PIANIST GLEN SANDERS STARED AT THE COLDLY BECKONING OCEAN--

NO TALENT-- THAT'S WHAT THE CRITICS SAY! WHAT'S THE USE? SHOULD I KEEP TRYING-- OR--

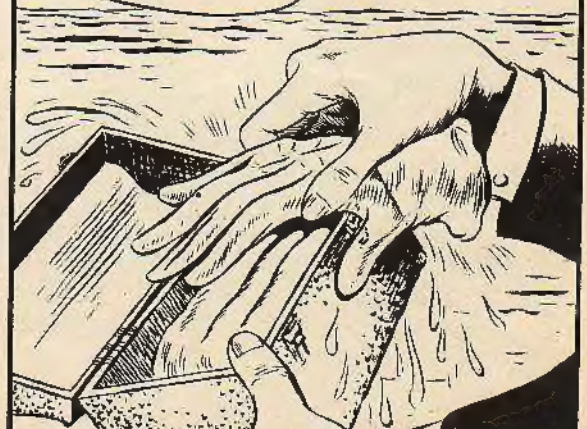


SUDDENLY-- BOBBING ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER--

HOLY SMOKES! NEVER SAW A CHEST LIKE THAT BEFORE! MAYBE I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE---



NOTHING BUT A PAIR OF TRANSPARENT **GLOVES**-- MADE OF SOME UNUSUAL MATERIAL! WOULDN'T YOU **KNOW** IT-- AND HERE I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING **VALUABLE!**



BUT-- AT THAT MOMENT-- A BLINDING FLASH--

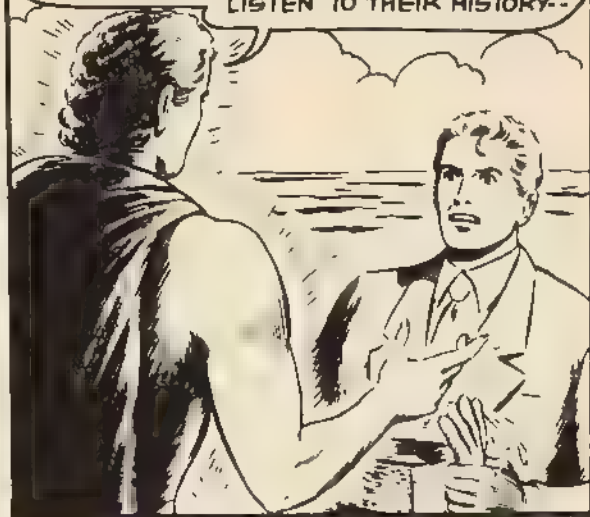
WHAT IN THE--! FEAR NOT, MORTAL! I AM **APOLLO**-- GOD OF MUSIC, POETRY, PROPHECY, AND MANY OTHER THINGS! BY TOUCHING THE GLOVES, YOU HAVE SUMMONED ME!



At FIRST, TERROR AND DISBELIEF CLUTCHED AT GLEN'S HEART! BUT, AS THE APPARITION SEEMED FRIENDLY--



THESE GLOVES ARE **ENCHANTED**-- FASHIONED BY ME THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO! HE WHO WEARS THEM DOES **PERFECTLY** WHAT HE WISHES TO DO **MOST!** LISTEN TO THEIR HISTORY--

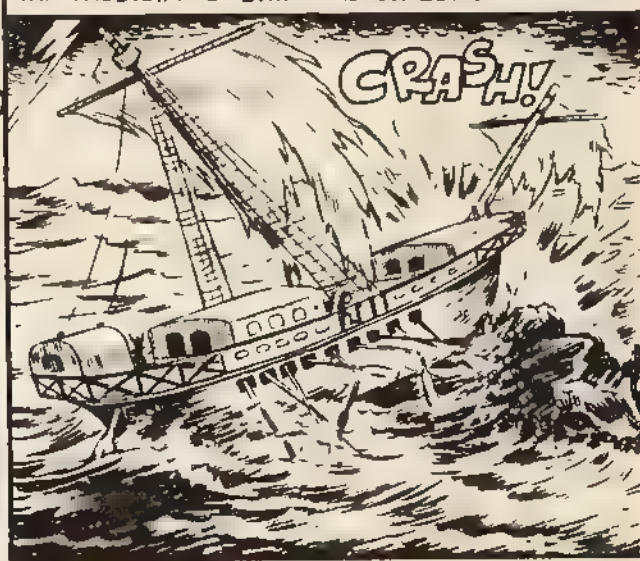


"I CREATED THEM FOR AN UNTALENTED LYRE PLAYER IN ANCIENT GREECE, WHOSE PLEAS TO ME FOR HELP TOUCHED MY HEART! THEN, WHEN HE WORE THEM, HIS MUSIC CHARMED ALL--"



A MIRACLE OF SONG-- HE PLAYS LIKE APOLLO HIMSELF!

"BUT-- ON A VOYAGE ACROSS THE ADRIATIC SEA, THE MUSICIAN'S SHIP WAS WRECKED--"



"-- AND THE GLOVES WERE LOST TO MAN, FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS!"



NOW THEY ARE FOUND AGAIN! YEAH-- BY **ANOTHER** UNTALENTED MUSICIAN!



DO NOT DESPAIR--THE GLOVES ARE **YOURS!** USE THEM WISELY-- AND THEY WILL DELIGHT ALL MANKIND! IF, HOWEVER, THEY ARE WORN BY THE **WRONG** HANDS -- **TRAGEDY** WILL RESULT! FAREWELL!



THUS A CHAIN OF INCREDIBLE EVENTS WAS SET IN MOTION-- BEGINNING WITH THE MOST SENSATIONAL CONCERTS IN THE HISTORY OF MUSIC!



BRAVO! GREAT! ENCORE!

NOTHING LIKE IT SINCE CHOPIN!

IN THE MIDST OF FABULOUS SUCCESS-- HOW COULD GLEN KNOW HE TOTTERED AT THE BRINK OF STARK TERROR?



GLEN, YOU'VE BECOME SO ENGROSSSED WITH SUCCESS THAT YOU HARDLY HAVE TIME FOR ME ANYMORE! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- STOP PLAYING WHEN I TALK TO YOU!



SORRY, GINNY-- IT'S JUST THAT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENED!



NOTICE THAT I ALWAYS WEAR THESE TRANSPARENT GLOVES WHEN I PLAY? WELL, THEREBY HANGS A FANTASTIC TALE!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



AS THE WHOLE AMAZING STORY WAS TOLD--

YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND, GLEN-- I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT! C'MON-- LET'S GET A CUP OF COFFEE!



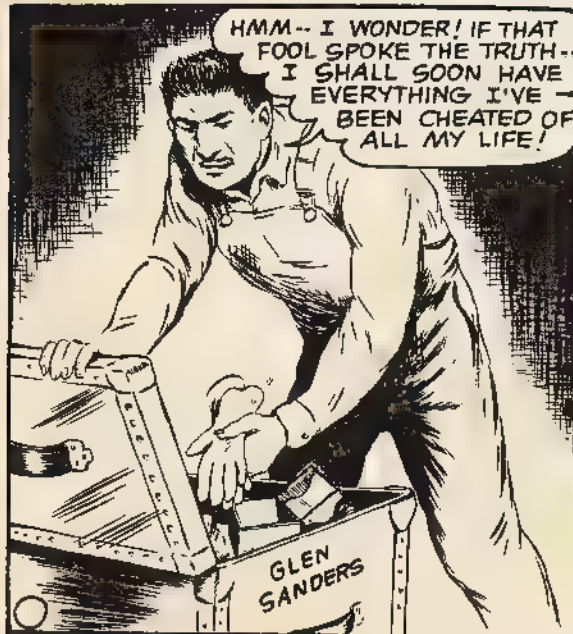
GLEN SANDERS

BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE, HONEY-- BUT IF A CRIMINAL GOT HOLD OF THOSE GLOVES-- THE RESULT COULD BE DISASTROUS!

STAGE DOOR



HMM-- I WONDER! IF THAT FOOL SPOKE THE TRUTH-- I SHALL SOON HAVE EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN CHEATED OF ALL MY LIFE!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THE THIEF DONNED THE GLOVES-- A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION TOOK PLACE! IN AN INSTANT, THE EVIL JANITOR'S HIDDEN NATURE WAS REVEALED IN ALL ITS BESTIAL UGLINESS!



HAA-HA-HA! I CAN FEEL IT HAPPENING-- MY WHOLE BODY IS CHANGING! NOW-- IF I HAVE REALLY GAINED GREAT POWERS, THE TIME HAS COME TO TEST THEM!



THE "TEST" PROVED SUCCESSFUL--THE FIRST ACT OF A NIGHT-LONG ORGY OF SLAUGHTER!

AND WHEN THE DAWN CAME--THE STREETS NEAR THE CONCERT HALL WERE BLIGHTED BY A GRISLY SIGHT--

UH! THIS WAS EASY-- **VERY EASY--!**
I AM A-- **PERFECT KILLER!**

ARRGHH!

HELLO-- CHIEF? SEND EVERY AVAILABLE MAN! **THERE'S A MANIAC LOOSE IN THE CITY!**

M-MERCIFUL HEAVENS!

[LATER THAT MORNING, WHEN GLEN ARRIVED AT HIS DRESSING ROOM--

FORGET ABOUT THE MASSACRE, HONEY-- MY RECITAL GOES ON AS USUAL! BUT--YE **GOODS! THE GLOVES HAVE BEEN STOLEN!**

HE'S BECOME **OBSESSED** WITH THOSE GLOVES! THERE'S NO ROOM IN HIS LIFE FOR ANYTHING-- BUT HIS CAREER!

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME IS APOLLO! IF ONLY HE WERE **HERE!**

I HAVE HEARD YOUR PLEA-- NEGLIGENT MORTAL-- AND I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU ONLY THAT I CANNOT HELP!

As GINNY LISTENED TO THE GOD'S WORDS-- HER DISBELIEF TURNING TO AMAZEMENT--

MY POWERS HAVE GROWN FEEBLE THROUGH THE AGES! NO LONGER DO I INTERFERE **DIRECTLY** IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN! BUT I CAN TELL YOU **THIS:** THE **JANITOR** STOLE THE GLOVES-- AND HAS ALREADY USED THEM TO MURDER! BEWARE OF HIM-- HIS EVIL IS BOUNDLESS!

SWIFTLY, GLEN AND GINNY RACED TO THE BASEMENT! THERE--

OKAY, BUD-- WE KNOW ALL ABOUT LAST NIGHT! BETTER HAND OVER THOSE GLOVES OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

HA! TELL THE COPS THAT STORY-- AND THEY'LL SAY YOU'RE **MAD!**

JANITOR

NOW **GET OUT**-- BEFORE I---

C'MON, GINNY-- WE'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM LATER!

TOO RISKY TO KILL THEM NOW-- BUT TONIGHT--

JANITOR

THAT NIGHT, AS GLEN CALLED ON GINNY AT HER APARTMENT ACROSS FROM THE CONCERT HALL--

WHAT THE--!
**LET GO
OF HER!**

YES-- SO THAT I
CAN TAKE
CARE OF
YOU!



NOW--
DIE!

CRACK!



AS THE MANIAC ESCAPED
THROUGH THE FIRE ESCAPE--

OW-- MY HEAD!
BUT I'M LUCKY--
IF THAT MONSTER
HAD STRUCK
WITH HIS
HANDS--
I'D BE--
DEAD!



I'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM--
BUT THE QUESTION IS--
**WHAT DO I DO WHEN
I CATCH UP? WAIT--**
I'VE GOT AN
IDEA!



TAKING A LAST FORLORN CHANCE--

**APOLLO-- APPEAR
ONCE MORE-- I
BEG OF YOU!**



SPEAK! WHAT IS
YOUR DESIRE?



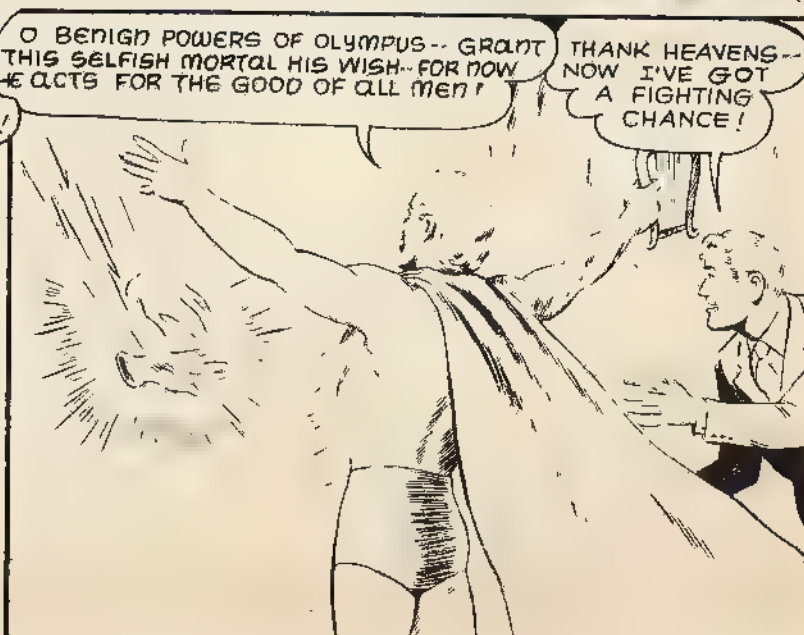
YOU FASHIONED THOSE GLOVES,
RIGHT? WHY CAN'T YOU CREATE
A **SECOND**
PAIR?

YOU ARE WISER
THAN I THOUGHT!
YOUR
REQUEST
SHALL BE
GRANTED!



O BENIGN POWERS OF OLYMPUS-- GRANT
THIS SELFISH MORTAL HIS WISH-- FOR NOW
HE ACTS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MEN!

THANK HEAVENS--
NOW I'VE GOT
A FIGHTING
CHANCE!



ARMED WITH THE SECOND PAIR OF MAGICAL GLOVES, GLEN RUSHED TO THE CELLAR--

GO-- THE LITTLE HERO STILL LIVES--WITH HIS OWN MAGIC GLOVES! WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT SOON ENOUGH!



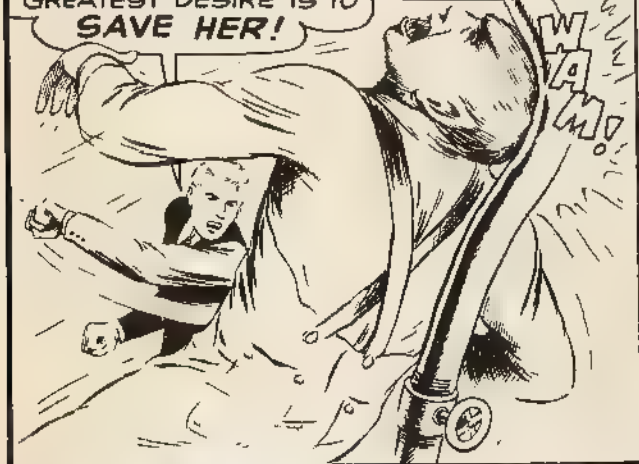
AS THE TWO MEN MET IN MORTAL COMBAT--

IDIOT! THE GLOVES WILL ONLY MAKE A MAN DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO **MOST-- AND YOU WANT MOST TO PLAY THE PIANO! YOU'RE HELPLESS!**



BUT--WITH ALL THE FORCES OF **GOOD** SUDDENLY WELLING UP IN GLEN'S BEING--

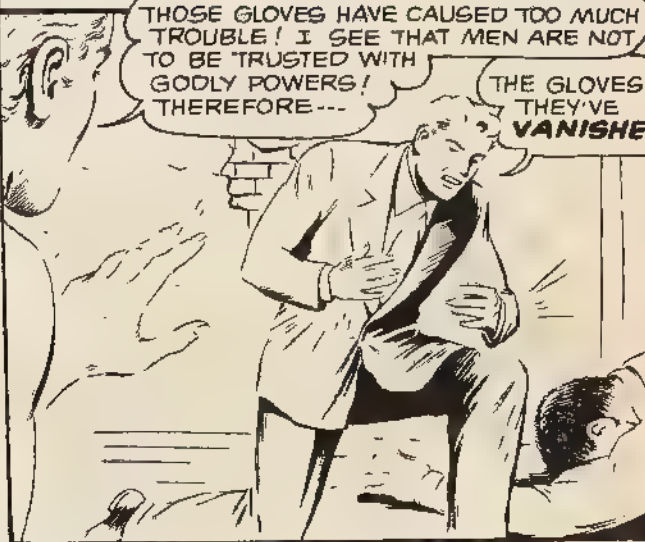
I **WAS** SELFISH, YES-- BUT **NOW** I KNOW GINNY MEANS MORE TO ME THAN MY CAREER-- MORE THAN MY **LIFE!** MY GREATEST DESIRE IS TO **SAVE HER!**



IT WAS A FATAL BLOW-- AND THE MONSTER SANK DEAD TO THE FLOOR! THEN, AS APOLLO APPEARED AGAIN--

THOSE GLOVES HAVE CAUSED TOO MUCH TROUBLE! I SEE THAT MEN ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED WITH GODLY POWERS! THEREFORE--

THE GLOVES! THEY'VE **VANISHED!**



OH, GLEN-- I'M SO SORRY! I KNOW NOW HOW MUCH THEY MEANT TO YOU!

WAIT! COME UP TO THE STAGE!

I DON'T CARE-- NOW!



GLEN SAT AT THE CONCERT PIANO-- AND NEITHER HE NOR GINNY WAS AWARE OF APOLLO'S MAGICAL GESTURE--

GLEN-- WHAT HAPPENED? YOU PLAY AS WELL AS EVER!

I DUNNO! IT-- IT'S A **MIRACLE!**



YES-- IT'S SURPRISING WHAT MIRACLES TRUE **LOVE** CAN BRING-- ESPECIALLY WITH THE HELPING HAND OF-- A **GOD!**



THE END

A *QUEEN* for the *VOODOO* CHIEF



A MODERN TELEVISION STUDIO--A BEAUTIFUL SINGING STAR--WHAT POSSIBLE CONNECTION COULD THESE HAVE WITH A TERROR-RIDDEN JUNGLE FAR ACROSS THE SEA--WITH A PRIMITIVE TRIBE OF VODOO WORSHIPPERS WHO SUMMONED THE EVIL FORCES OF BLACK MAGIC TO MAKE DEAD MEN WALK?--HOLD ONTO YOUR NERVES, READER--AND FIND OUT!

PAUL COOPER

OUR STORY REALLY BEGINS ON THE NIGHT JERI ADAMS MADE HER SENSATIONAL DEBUT BEFORE THE TELEVISION CAMERAS --A NIGHT THAT GAVE NO HINT OF IMPENDING TERROR!



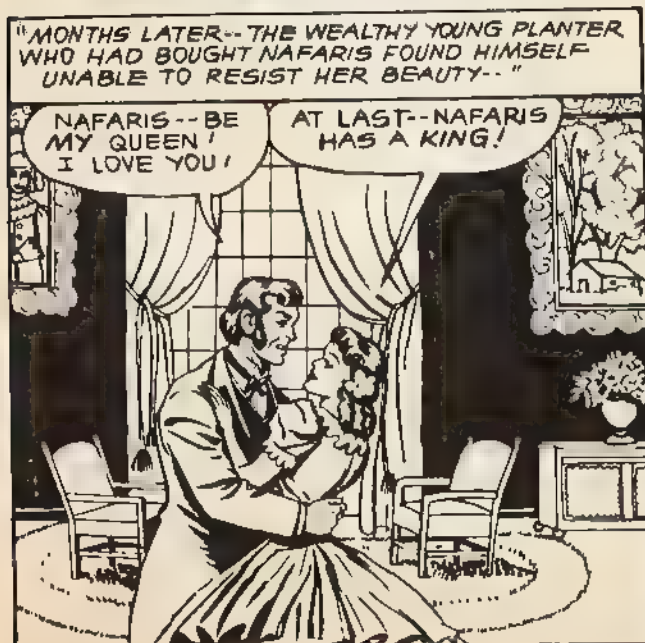
TO DANNY'S SURPRISE, JERI REVEALED NOTHING BUT A PROSAIC, UNEVENTFUL PAST-- EVEN HER ANCESTORS WERE COMPLETELY ORDINARY PEOPLE--



"YOU ASKED FOR IT-- SO HERE IT IS! ACTUALLY, YOU MIGHT SAY MY LIFE STORY BEGAN CENTURIES AGO, IN THE FORBIDDEN JUNGLES OF HAITI! FAR FROM CIVILIZATION, THERE LIVED A WILD TRIBE OF VODOO WORSHIPPERS, RULED BY A MYSTERIOUS WHITE QUEEN!"



"EVERY GENERATION SAW A NEW QUEEN, THE DAUGHTER OF THE OLD, AND EACH BORE THE CRESCENT-SHAPED MARK OF NAFARIS ON HER SHOULDER. UNDER THEIR WISE AND GENTLE RULE, THE TRIBE GREW POWERFUL AND PROSPEROUS--UNTIL ONE DAY..."

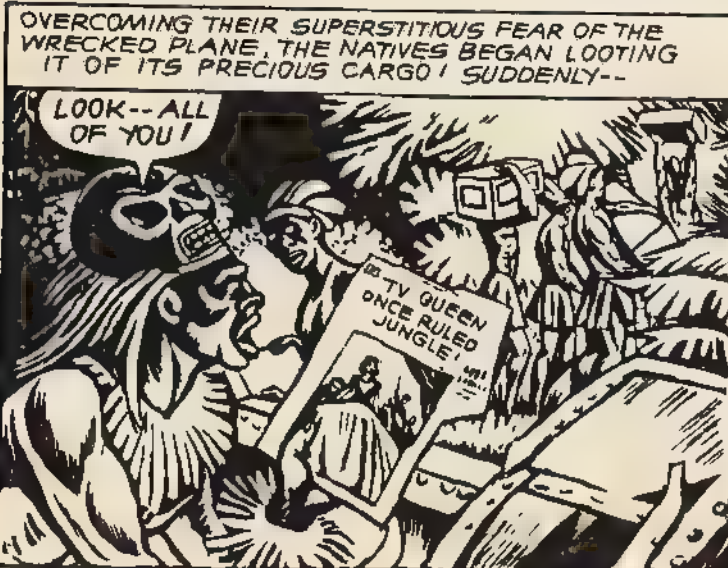




...SO JERI'S STORY WAS PRINTED -- LAUGHED AT -- AND THUS BEGAN A CHAIN OF EVENTS SO LADEN WITH HORROR AS TO CHILL THE VERY IMAGINATION!



A FEW DAYS LATER -- A SWIFT, SLEEK PASSENGER PLANE, HIGH ABOVE THE DARK JUNGLES OF HAITI, SPUTTERS, PLUMMETS EARTHWARD --



IT IS NAFARIS--NAFARIS! THE GREAT WHITE QUEEN WHOSE IMAGE WE HAVE WORSHIPPED SINCE SHE WAS TORN FROM OUR MIST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO! SHE STILL LIVES!



THAT NIGHT, THE TRIBE HELD A COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE MOMENTOUS TURN OF EVENTS! KUFIR, THE WITCH DOCTOR, SPOKE--



O CHIEF--WE ALL KNOW THAT SINCE OUR GREAT WHITE QUEEN, NAFARIS, WAS DRAGGED AWAY FROM THE JUNGLE, OUR TRIBE HAS FALLEN UPON HARD TIMES! IF, HOWEVER, WE COULD GET NAFARIS BACK--

IF WE COULD-- AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, KUFIR?

I HAVE BEEN AMONGST WHITE MEN BEFORE-- I KNOW THEIR CUSTOMS! I WILL GO TO AMERICA--TO NAFARIS-- AND TELL OUR QUEEN WE NEED HER!



BY THIS TIME, JERI AND DANNY HAD FORGOTTEN THEIR QUARREL! ONE EVENING--



GOSH, DANNY-- I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU-- YOU'VE HELPED ME A LOT!

FORGET IT-- I HAD REASONS.

NAFARIS!-- AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU!

O GREAT QUEEN NAFARIS-- YOUR PEOPLE AWAIT YOU! RETURN WITH ME NOW-- TO THE LAND OF YOUR BIRTH!

HA! A CHARACTER!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE BELIEVED THAT STORY YOU PRINTED!



BUT-- WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN INNOCENT JOKE TURNED OUT TO BE DEADLY SERIOUS--

WHAT--! STOP! YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!-- DANNY!

YOU FORGET YOUR DUTY TO YOUR PEOPLE, NAFARIS-- YOU MUST COME WITH ME!

WHY, YOU--



LATER-- IN KUFIR'S HOTEL ROOM--

TIME HAS DULLED NAFARIS' MEMORY-- SHE HAS FORGOTTEN THE DAYS OF HER GLORY-- AND OURS! WELL, SHE WILL FIND THAT WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE ANCIENT BLACK MAGIC OF THE GODS! IT WILL RESTORE HER MEMORY!



OH, NAFARIS-- HEAR ME, WHEREVER YOU ARE! -- COME TO ME, NAFARIS!

MEANWHILE-- IN HER APARTMENT-- JERI AND DANNY LAUGHED AT THE EVENING'S INCIDENT-- LITTLE DREAMING OF THE AWFUL CONSEQUENCES TO COME--

HAH! AS IF YOU COULD EVER HAVE BEEN A QUEEN! GO ON, HONEY-- ACT GLEENLY FOR KING DANNY!

THINK I CAN'T, EH? HOW'S THIS-- I-- AM-- NAFARIS--



SUDDENLY-- NAFARIS-- HEAR ME! COME TO ME, O GREAT QUEEN! -- COME TO ME!

I HEAR, KUFIR-- AND I COME!

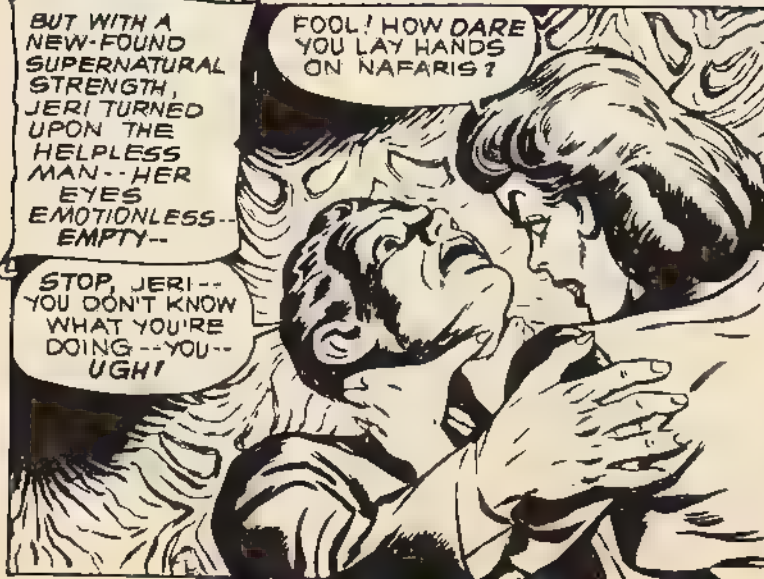
OKAY, BABY-- THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU NEEDN'T BE THAT CONVINCING! I-- JERI!



BUT WITH A NEW-FOUND SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH, JERI TURNED UPON THE HELPLESS MAN-- HER EYES EMOTIONLESS-- EMPTY--

FOOL! HOW DARE YOU LAY HANDS ON NAFARIS?

STOP, JERI-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING-- YOU-- UGH!



HOURS LATER--

JERI! -- WHAT WAS THE IDEA OF--? SHE'S GONE!



REALIZING NOW THAT HE WAS UP AGAINST SOMETHING SINISTER-- SOMETHING UNNATURAL-- DANNY SOUGHT OUT THE ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO COULD HELP HIM -- DR. JOHN MARBERRY, RESEARCHER IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA--

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, DANNY?

IT MAY SOUND SCREWY, DOCTOR-- BUT HERE GOES--



AFTER DANNY HAD UNFOLDED HIS FANTASTIC TALE--

IT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU-- BUT JERI TOLD THE TRUTH! THERE WAS A WHITE QUEEN CALLED NAFARIS-- AND JERI COULD BE HER DESCENDANT! LOOK HERE--



ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, NAFARIS' OLD TRIBE STILL EXISTS! THE MAN YOU MET IN THE NIGHT CLUB WAS DOUBTLESS SENT BY THEM TO TAKE NAFARIS-- OR JERI-- BACK TO HAITI! APPARENTLY HE PUT HER UNDER A VOODOO SPELL, AND--

BUT-- THAT MEANS JERI IS--

EXACTLY! JERI HAS BEEN FORCIBLY ABDUCTED INTO THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE WILDEST JUNGLE TRIBES IN THE WORLD-- A TRIBE WHOSE CHIEF WEAPON IS BLACK MAGIC!



IT'S-- UNBELIEVABLE! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST I DO, DOCTOR?

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO, MY BOY-- GO AFTER HER!



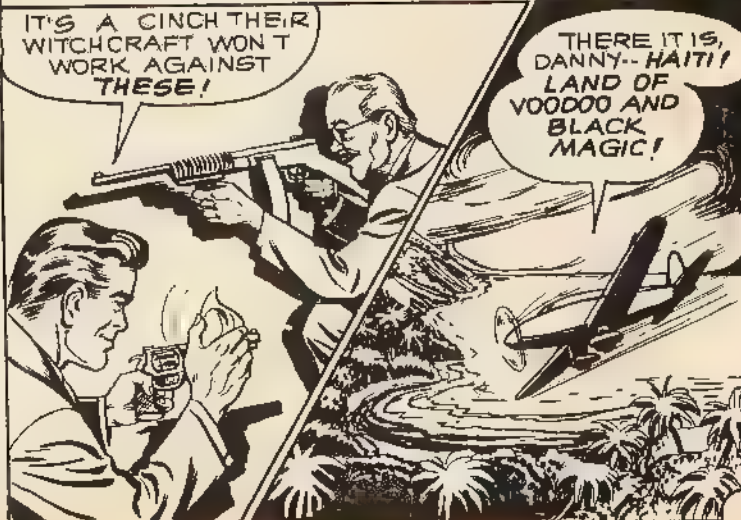
OF COURSE I'LL GO-- BUT WHAT CAN I DO ALONE-- AGAINST THAT WHOLE TRIBE OF-- SORCERERS?

ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO PIT MY BOOK KNOWLEDGE AGAINST THE LIVING FORCES OF THE SUPERNATURAL! NOW YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE CHANCE! I'M GOING WITH YOU!

FEVERISH PREPARATIONS WERE QUICKLY MADE-- AND A FEW DAYS LATER--

IT'S A CINCH THEIR WITCHCRAFT WON'T WORK AGAINST THESE!

THERE IT IS, DANNY-- HAITI! LAND OF VOODOO AND BLACK MAGIC!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT-- FAR BELOW IN THE DENSE JUNGLE-- JERI AWOKE FROM HER VOODOO SPELL-- AWOKE TO TERROR!

WHERE AM I? HOW DID I GET HERE? OH-- MY HEAD!

KUFIR! COME QUICKLY-- THE WHITE QUEEN HAS ARISEN!



HORRIFIED-- JERI RECOGNIZED THE STRANGE MAN OF THE NIGHT CLUB INCIDENT--

O MIGHTY NAFARIS-- WELCOME BACK TO YOUR PEOPLE! UNDER YOUR RULE, WE SHALL ONCE AGAIN WAX RICH AND POWERFUL!

YOU! THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I'M JERI ADAMS-- AND I DEMAND TO BE SET FREE!



BUT PROTESTS AVAILED HER LITTLE! INSTEAD, SHE WAS CONDUCTED TO A WILD, PAGAN SCENE! AND THERE, ENTHRONED NEXT TO THE FIERCE CHIEF, SHE SAW A STRANGE AND ANCIENT REPLICA -- OF HERSELF!



HERE, NAFARIS, IS THE STATUE WE HAVE BEEN WORSHIPPING FOR A CENTURY! NOW, HAVING RETURNED, YOU WILL TAKE ITS PLACE-- ON THE THRONE OF THE WHITE GLEEN--

YOU MEAN, HE'S TO BE MY KING? NEVER!

BESIDE YOUR KING!

IT WAS THEN THAT HYSTERIA OVERTOOK JERI! SEIZING A MACHETE, SHE RUSHED FORWARD, AND--

IF THIS IS THE TIE THAT BINDS ME TO YOU, I'LL BREAK IT, NOW!

CRACK!



BUT THE AMERICAN GIRL DID NOT RECKON ON THE SLAVISH SUPERSTITION OF THESE VOODOO WORSHIPERS! HER BLOOD RAN COLD AS KUFIR SPOKE--

FOR SUCH BLASPHEMY, YOU MUST DIE TONIGHT-- BEFORE THE VOODOO FIRES!

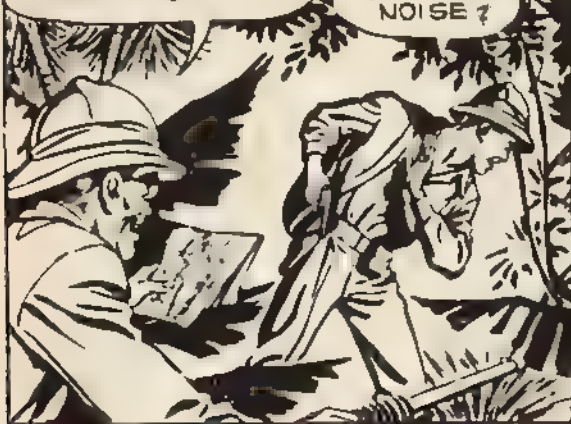
OH-- NO!



A FEW HOURS LATER-- IN THE
NEARBY JUNGLE--

ACCORDING TO THE
MAP-- WE'RE NEAR
NAFARIS' COUNTRY!

LISTEN, DOC--
WHAT'S THAT
BOOMING
NOISE?



JUNGLE DRUMS!-- THE MOST TERRIFYING SOUND
EVER HEARD BY HUMAN EARS! DR. MARBERRY'S
FACE WHITENED AS HE LISTENED TO THEIR
HIDEOUS MESSAGE--

GREAT SCOTT! THE NATIVES
HAVE TURNED AGAINST
NAFARIS! SHE'S TO
BE SACRIFICED--
WITHIN THE HOUR!

JERI! C'MON
DOC--
HURRY!



A MAD RACE-- AGAINST DEATH!

THESE
VINES--
LIKE
STRANGLING
SNAKES--
HOLDING
US BACK!

NOT
MUCH--
TIME,
DANNY!



EVEN AT THAT VERY
MOMENT, JERI ADAMS,
TELEVISION STAR,
WAS ABOUT TO DIE
HORRIBLY ON A PAGAN
ALTAR OF SACRIFICE--

O GREAT NAFARIS--WE
OFFER YOU THE BLOOD
OF THIS TRAITOR! MAY
YOUR WRATH BE
APPEASED! LET
THE KNIFE FALL!



BUT THE EVIL WITCH DOCTOR HAD NOT
COUNTED ON AMERICAN COURAGE AND
ENDURANCE! EVEN AS THE
GREAT SWORD FELL--



WHILE THE DOCTOR HELD THE ENRAGED TRIBESMEN
AT BAY, DANNY CUT JERI FREE! NOW BUT ONE
THOUGHT FILLED THEIR MINDS-- ESCAPE!



SLOWED DOWN BY THE WEAKENED JERI, THE FUGITIVES FROM TERROR WERE IN DANGER OF BEING SURROUNDED BY THEIR VICIOUS PURSUERS--



LEAVE ME, DANNY!-- SAVE YOURSELVES!

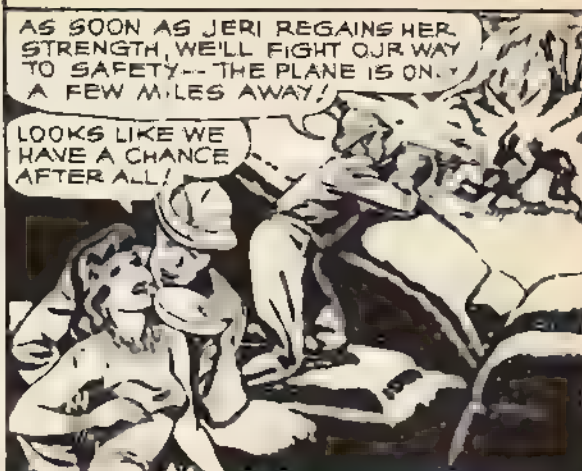
SAVE YOUR BREATH-- YOU'LL NEED IT!

LOOK-- A CAVE! WE CAN TAKE REFUGE THERE-- HURRY!

A NATURAL FORT! NOW THEY COMMANDED A VIEW OF ALL APPROACHES-- AND THERE WAS PLENTY OF AMMUNITION--

AS SOON AS JERI REGAINS HER STRENGTH, WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY TO SAFETY-- THE PLANE IS ONLY A FEW MILES AWAY!

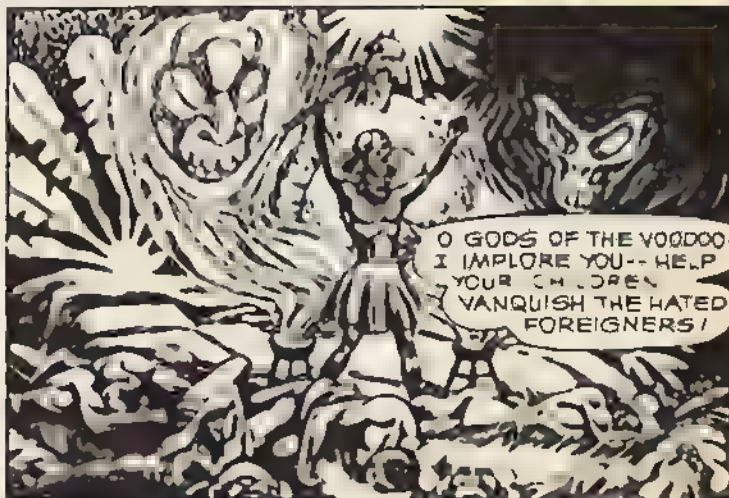
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A CHANCE AFTER ALL!



BUT THEIR OPTIMISM WOULD HAVE BEEN SHORT-LIVED HAD THEY BUT KNOWN OF THE AWFUL PLAN BEING LAID IN A NEARBY CLEARING--

THE FOOLS GLOAT, LITTLE REALIZING THEIR VICTORY IS BUT A TEMPORARY ONE! WE SHALL SEE WHAT THEIR FIRE-SPITTING WEAPONS CAN DO AGAINST THE INVINCIBLE POWER OF VOODOO!

ALONE, KUFIR RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE AND THE BODIES OF THE SLAIN THESPIANS! THERE IN THE GREAT JUNGLE A GROSS RITUAL TOOK PLACE--



O GODS OF THE VOODOO-- I IMPLORE YOU-- HELP YOUR CHILDREN VANQUISH THE HATED FOREIGNERS!

THEN-- THE IMPOSSIBLE! SLOWLY, THE DEAD MEN STIRRED, GAINED THEIR FEET, STARING WITH SIGHTLESS EYES-- AWAITING THE COMMAND OF THEIR MASTER! ZOMBIES!

RISE, RISE, CHILDREN OF THE DARKNESS! YOUR HOUR OF VENGEANCE IS AT HAND!



STIFFLY, MECHANICALLY, THE TERRIFYING PROCESSION MOVED THROUGH THE JUNGLE ON THEIR UNSPEAKABLE ERRAND-- A LEGION OF THE LIVING DEAD!



SHORTLY AFTERWARD--

LOOK -- ANOTHER ATTACK! BUT THEY HAVE NO WEAPONS! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS!

WELL, IF IT'S A SUICIDE ATTACK--THEY CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

A BURST OF DEATH-DEALING MACHINE-GUN FIRE -- AND NOW DANNY AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SEIZED BY A NAMELESS HORROR--

DOC! THEY--THEY KEEP COMING! I CAN SEE THE BULLETS STRIKE. BUT --

GREAT SCOTT! ZOMBIES! THE FIENDS HAVE RESORTED TO BLACK MAGIC!

HA! SEE--OUR ENEMIES ARE HELPLESS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN! VICTORY IS OURS! -- KILL! KILL!

AT THE CAVE, THE SITUATION LOOKED HOPELESS FOR THE DEFENDERS--

WE'VE GOT ONLY ONE CHANCE-- MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUPERNATURAL! THIS CLAY-- DANNY, CAN YOU HOLD THEM OFF FOR 5 MINUTES? YOU MUST!

THIS IS IT, DOC-- HERE THEY COME!

WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THEM ON THEIR OWN TERMS--WITH BLACK MAGIC THAT MY ANCIENT BOOKS TAUGHT ME!

RUSH IT! BULLETS WON'T WORK-- I'M DOWN TO USING ROCKS NOW!

THE DOCTOR LABORED WITH FRANTIC HASTE -- AND IN HIS SKILLED HANDS, THE WET CLAY TOOK ON THE SHAPE OF -- KUFIR!

WE'RE FRESH OUT OF ROCKS, DOC-- AND THESE LIFELESS CREEPS ARE CREEPING BACK FAST!

I NEED ONE MORE MINUTE!

YOU'VE GOT YOUR MINUTE, DOC-- THAT'S HOW LONG I'LL TAKE THESE DEVILS TO TEAR ME APART!

OH, NO! DANNY!

OH, PLEASE HURRY, DOCTOR-- THEY'VE GOT DANNY!

HOLD ON--IT'S FINISHED!

WHAT MAN, HOWEVER BRAVE, CAN HOPE TO WITHSTAND AN
ONSLAUGHT OF SUPERSTRONG ZOMBIES? IT SEEMED
THAT DANNY HAD SACRIFICED HIS LIFE IN VAIN--



AT THAT MOMENT-- WITH THREE
LIVES AT STAKE--



AND EVEN AS THE DOLL'S
HEART IS PIERCED--
DEATH CLAIMS ITS
HUMAN COUNTERPART!



UNCONTROLLED-- THE ZOMBIES
FALTERED, FELL--



THUS ONCE AGAIN DID CIVILIZED
MAN PROVE HIS SUPERIORITY
OVER THE EVIL OF A DEAD PAST!
... SOME DAYS LATER, WE
FIND OUR HEROINE BACK IN
THE TELEVISION LIMELIGHT--



DANNY! YOU KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED THE
LAST TIME I GAVE
YOU A STORY!
BETTER
FORGET
IT!



AH, BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT
KIND OF STORY-- AND I
CAN'T PRINT IT WITHOUT
YOUR OKAY! THE HEAD-
LINE WILL BE, "TELEVISION
QUEEN MARRIES REPORTER!"
-- HOW ABOUT IT?

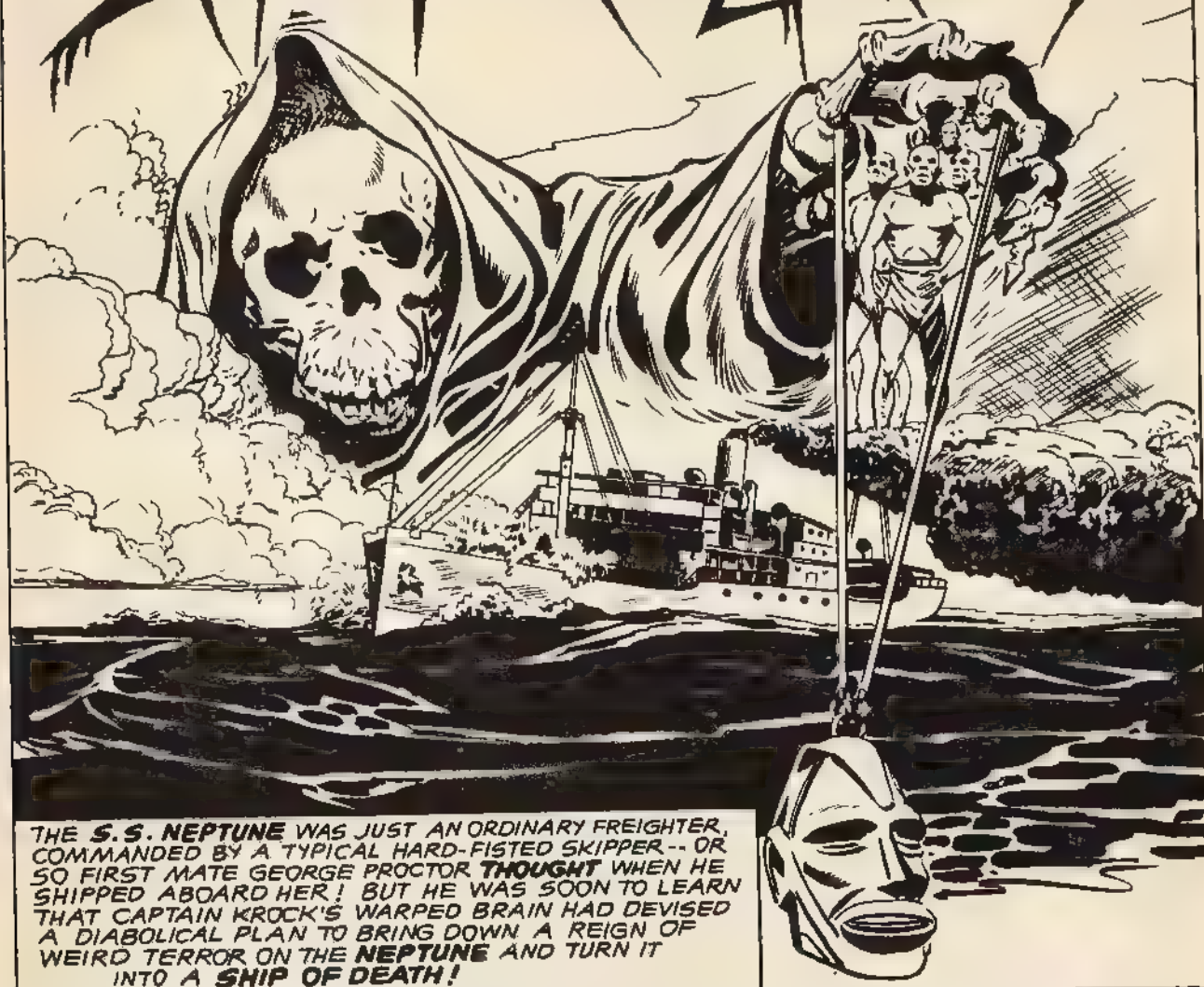


HERE'S MY ANSWER--
YOUR MAJESTY!



The End

Ship of the Zombies



THE **S.S. NEPTUNE** WAS JUST AN ORDINARY FREIGHTER, COMMANDED BY A TYPICAL HARD-FISTED SKIPPER-- OR SO FIRST MATE GEORGE PROCTOR **THOUGHT** WHEN HE SHIPPED ABOARD HER! BUT HE WAS SOON TO LEARN THAT CAPTAIN KROCK'S WARPED BRAIN HAD DEVISED A DIABOLICAL PLAN TO BRING DOWN A REIGN OF WEIRD TERROR ON THE **NEPTUNE** AND TURN IT INTO A **SHIP OF DEATH!**

ALL DURING THE VOYAGE FROM NEW YORK, FIRST MATE GEORGE PROCTOR HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE MUTTERING AND UNREST ON THE PART OF THE CREW! THE **S.S. NEPTUNE** HAD BARELY DOCKED AT THE WEST INDIES PORT OF SAN CARLOS WHEN THE COMPLAINTS FLARED INTO THE OPEN!



WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, MEN?

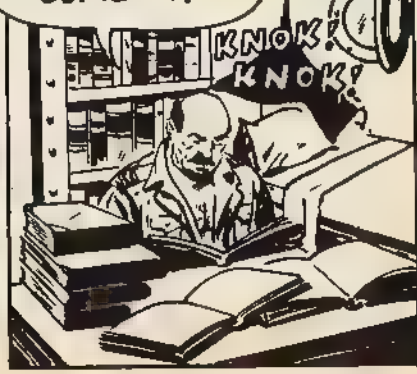
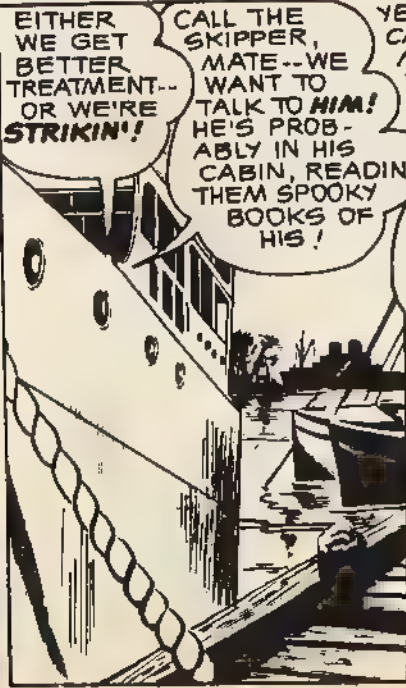
WE AIN'T GONNA STAND BEIN' KICKED AROUND BY THE CAPTAIN NO MORE!

EITHER WE GET BETTER TREATMENT-- OR WE'RE **STRIKIN'!**

CALL THE SKIPPER, MATE--WE WANT TO TALK TO **HIM!** HE'S PROBABLY IN HIS CABIN, READIN' THEM SPOOKY BOOKS OF HIS!

YES, CAPTAIN KROCK WAS IN HIS CABIN-- IMMERSED IN ONE OF HIS MANY VOLUMES DEALING WITH THE OCCULT! HIS EYES GLEAMED WITH A STRANGE LIGHT AS HE READ--

"ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING MASTERS OF THIS **VOODOO POWER** IS THE OLD WITCH DOCTOR, MAMBO, WHO LIVES IN THE HILLS BEYOND SAN CARLOS! HE..."
--**COME IN!**



KNOCK! KNOCK!



THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR MAMBO--
BUT SURRENDER!

I-- I DO!
FOLLOW
ME!

GO ALONG, SISTER--
I'M NOT TAKING
ANY CHANCES!



THEN, A WEIRD INCANTATION-- WITH
WEIRDER RESULTS!

OH, KALARI!-- GOD OF LIFE BEYOND LIFE!
IN NAME OF MYSTIC TALISMAN--
MAKE THEM RISE!

GREAT
THUNDER-
BOLTS!



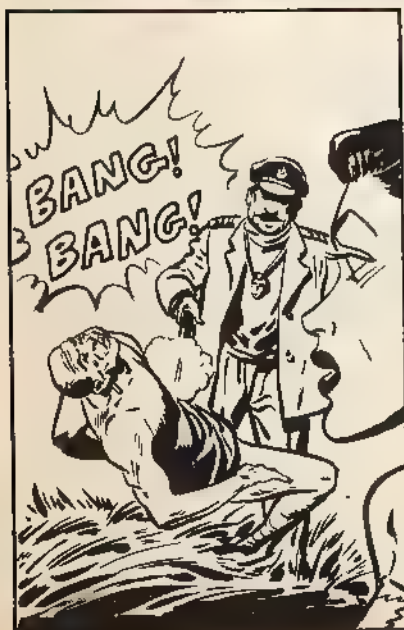
I HAVE CALLED
UP THE DEAD!
RELEASE MY
DAUGHTER!

WAIT! FIRST TELL
ME HOW TO KEEP
THESE THINGS
UNDER MY
CONTROL!



THIS STONE MYSTIC
TALISMAN! WEAR
AROUND NECK --
THEY DO WHAT
YOU COMMAND!

GOOD! NOW JUST
IN CASE YOU HAVE
ANY IDEAS ABOUT
TURNING THEM
AGAINST ME..



YOU GO-- BUT I WILL
FIND YOU AND KILL YOU,
WHITE MAN!
KILL YOU!



LATER...

AYE, AYE, SIR!

HERE'S OUR CREW,
PROCTOR! JUST TELL
'EM WHAT YOU
WANT AND
THEY'LL DO IT...
WE'RE PUTTIN'
TO SEA IM-
MEDIATELY!

SURE A
STRANGE-
LOOKING BUNCH!
WONDER WHERE
THE SKIPPER
GOT THEM!





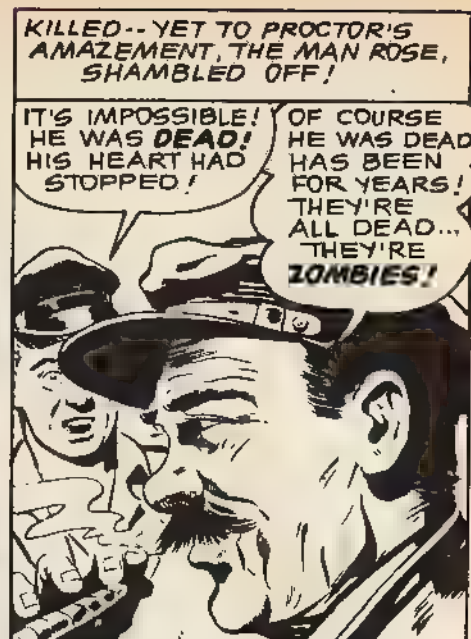
ON THE OPEN SEA --

THEY SURE OBEY
COMMANDS AND NO
QUESTIONS ASKED...

HEY! LOOK
OUT!



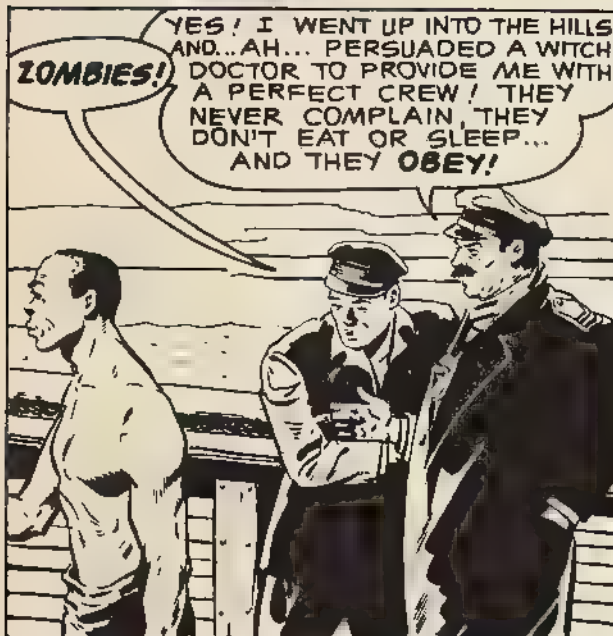
GREAT HEAVENS!
THERE'S NO HEART
BEAT! HE'S BEEN
KILLED!



KILLED--YET TO PROCTOR'S
AMAZEMENT, THE MAN ROSE,
SHAMBLING OFF!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HE WAS **DEAD!**
HIS HEART HAD
STOPPED!

OF COURSE
HE WAS DEAD!
HAS BEEN
FOR YEARS!
THEY'RE
ALL DEAD...
THEY'RE
ZOMBIES!



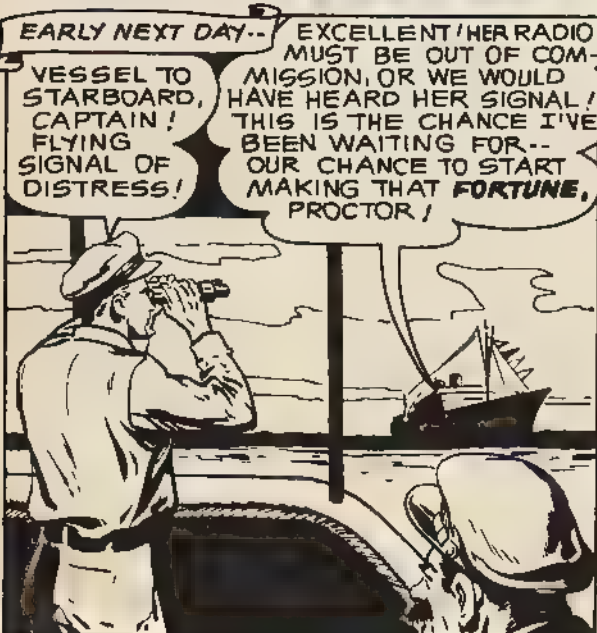
ZOMBIES!

YES! I WENT UP INTO THE HILLS,
AND...AH... PERSUADED A WITCH
DOCTOR TO PROVIDE ME WITH
A PERFECT CREW! THEY
NEVER COMPLAIN, THEY
DON'T EAT OR SLEEP...
AND THEY **OBEY!**



DON'T LOOK SO **UPSET**,
MR. PROCTOR! YOU'LL
SOON GET USED TO
THE IDEA! AND
TOGETHER, WE'LL
MAKE A FORTUNE!

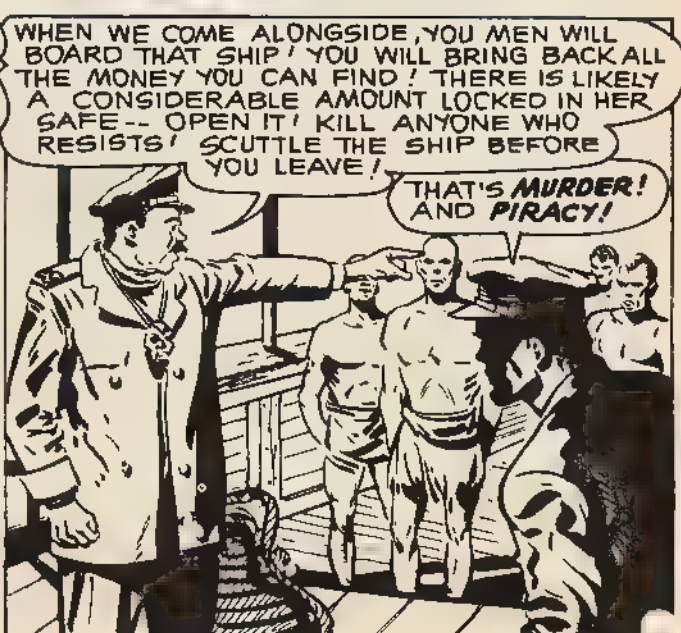
THIS IS **HORRIBLE!**
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN
DO BUT PLAY
ALONG WITH HIM
UNTIL WE REACH
THE NEXT PORT!



EARLY NEXT DAY--

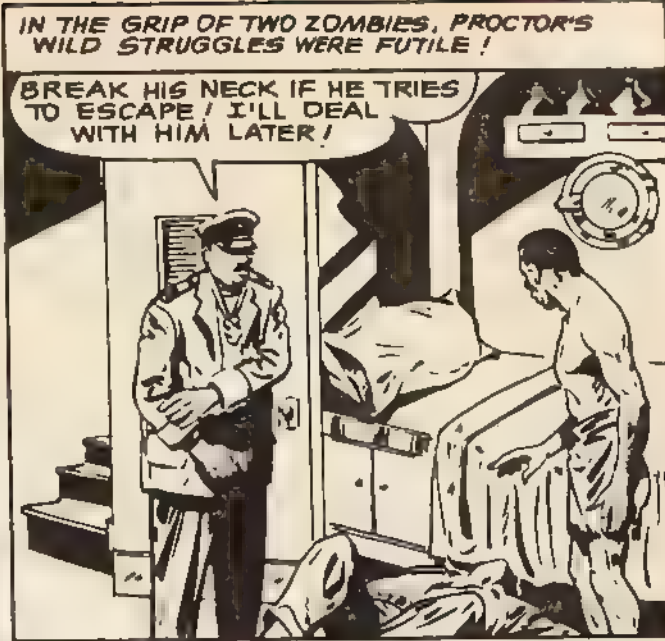
VESSEL TO
STARBOARD,
CAPTAIN!
FLYING
SIGNAL OF
DISTRESS!

EXCELLENT! HER RADIO
MUST BE OUT OF COM-
MISSION, OR WE WOULD
HAVE HEARD HER SIGNAL!
THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE
BEEN WAITING FOR--
OUR CHANCE TO START
MAKING THAT **FORTUNE**,
PROCTOR!

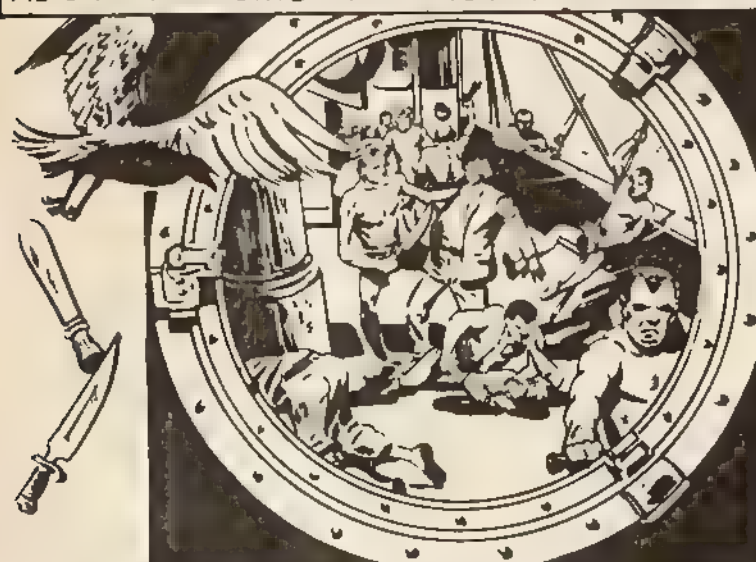


WHEN WE COME ALONGSIDE, YOU MEN WILL
BOARD THAT SHIP! YOU WILL BRING BACK ALL
THE MONEY YOU CAN FIND! THERE IS LIKELY
A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT LOCKED IN HER
SAFE-- OPEN IT! KILL ANYONE WHO
RESISTS! SCUTTLE THE SHIP BEFORE
YOU LEAVE!

THAT'S **MURDER!**
AND **PIRACY!**



HELPLESS, PROCTOR WATCHED THROUGH A PORTHOLE AS CAPTAIN KROCK'S MURDEROUS PLAN PROCEEDED!



LEAVING THE LOOTED SHIP SINKING WITH ALL ABOARD, THE S S NEPTUNE PROCEEDED ON HER WAY!



THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU'LL GET, YOU WHITE-LIVERED FOOL! I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU ALIVE SO YOU CAN WATCH SHIP AFTER SHIP ATTACKED AND DESTROYED! YOU'LL BE BEATEN UNTIL YOU FINALLY PRAY FOR DEATH! NOBODY CROSSES CAPTAIN KROCK!

DAYS GREW INTO WEEKS AS THE BLOODTHIRSTY SKIPPER OF THE NEPTUNE USED HIS DEAD MEN TO ATTACK, ROB, AND DESTROY SHIP AFTER SHIP! AND AFTER EVERY FORAY, THE MANIACAL CAPTAIN KROCK VISITED HIS CAPTIVE MATE --

FINALLY, THE SHIP STEAMED INTO A DESERTED COVE ACROSS THE ISLAND FROM SAN CARLOS--







ATTAGIRL!

DAWN FOUND GEORGE AND THE NATIVE GIRL CROUCHED IN THE HEAVY FOLIAGE NEAR THE SHORE --

THE NEPTUNE'S PULLED UP ANCHOR! SHE'S LEAVING!

I'VE FAILED-- HE WILL ESCAPE!



NO, HE WON'T ESCAPE-- NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!...TELL ME, HOW DOES CAPTAIN KROCK KEEP THOSE ZOMBIES UNDER CONTROL?

MY FATHER GAVE WHITE MAN A JEWEL-STONE TO WEAR ABOUT HIS NECK! HE WHO WEARS JEWEL, THE ZOMBIES WILL OBEY!

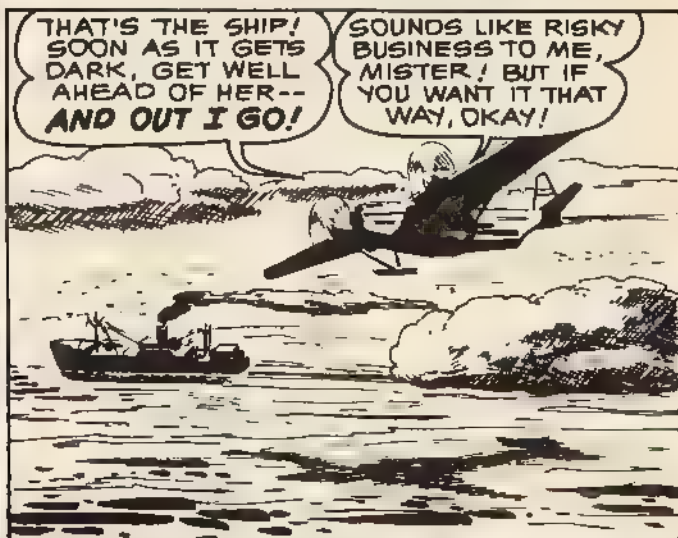


A PLAN RAPIDLY TOOK FORM IN PROCTOR'S BRAIN! LEAVING THE GIRL, HE TRAVELED ACROSS THE ISLAND TO SAN CARLOS--



THAT JEWEL HE WEARS AROUND HIS NECK... IF I CAN JUST GET BACK ABOARD THE NEPTUNE...

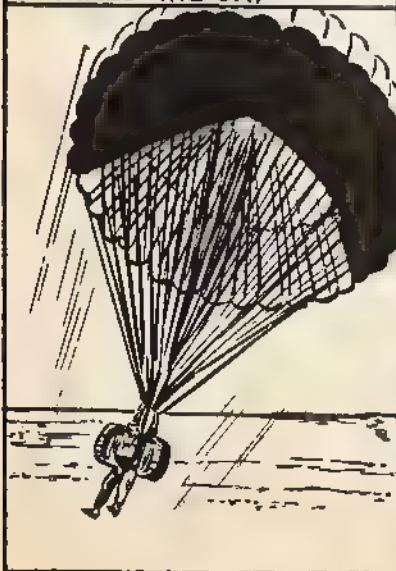
NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FLIGHT AND THE PURCHASE OF A PARACHUTE AND PORTABLE RUBBER RAFT WERE SOON COMPLETED--



THAT'S THE SHIP! SOON AS IT GETS DARK, GET WELL AHEAD OF HER-- AND OUT I GO!

SOUNDS LIKE RISKY BUSINESS TO ME, MISTER! BUT IF YOU WANT IT THAT WAY, OKAY!

WHEN THE VELVET OF NIGHT COVERED THE SKY--



SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW TO BOARD HER!



I'M IN LUCK-- NO ONE IN SIGHT! BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!



EVERY NERVE TENSE, PROCTOR MOVED LIKE A SHADOW ALONG THE DESERTED DECK TO THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN--



OOPS!
THAT
DOES
IT!



WHAT WAS
THAT?...YOU!



ALL HANDS! GET HERE--
ON THE DOUBLE!



REALIZING THAT AT ANY MOMENT
THE SWARM OF ZOMBIES WOULD
ARRIVE, PROCTOR SLASHED
INTO CAPTAIN KROCK, TRYING
FRANTICALLY TO GET HOLD OF
THE TALISMAN JEWEL!



KILL
HIM!

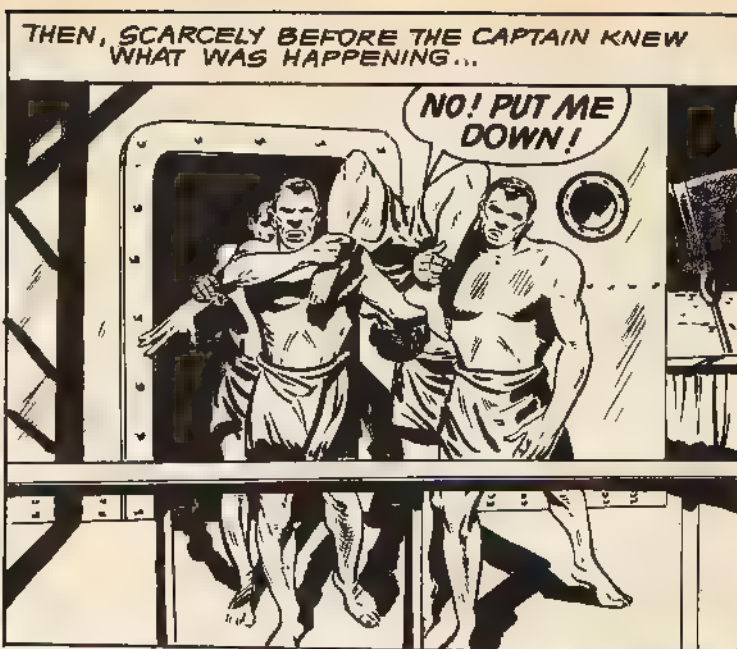


ONE LAST SUPREME EFFORT--AND PROCTOR'S
CLUTCHING FINGERS FASTENED ON
THE VITAL JEWEL!

THROW HIM
OVERBOARD!

GOT IT!





NOW
MASTER
OF THE
S.S.
NEPTUNE,
GEORGE
ISSUED
CRISP
ORDERS--



The FACELESS LEGION



EVERY DAY, IN THE GREAT CITIES, PEOPLE DISAPPEAR---AND ARE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN! HERE'S THE STRANGE STORY OF HOW ONE ORDINARY HUMAN, SEEKING TO ACCOUNT FOR THIS, FOUND HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH AN EVIL FORCE OLDER THAN OUR CIVILIZATION! THE FATE OF THE WORLD HUNG IN THE BALANCE AS HE BATTLED---THE FACELESS ARMY OF THE SERPENT GOD!

IN THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY PLANET---

TODAY SAW ANOTHER IN THE LIST OF STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES THAT HAVE BEEN BAFFLING THE POLICE OF THIS CITY! JEREMY WALLACE, TWENTY-FIVE, LEFT HIS OFFICE THIS EVENING TO RETURN TO HIS HOME, BUT NEVER ARRIVED THERE! LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH! THE LIST HAS NOW REACHED FORTY-THREE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS!



IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO, BANKS? YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT IN A DECENT STORY FOR A MONTH!

I'M NOT STALLING, CHIEF---I'M TRYING TO GET AN ANGLE ON THESE DISAPPEARANCES! THERE'S A REAL STORY HERE, IF I CAN BREAK IT!



OKAY, BANKS! YOU ASKED FOR IT! GO OUT AND BREAK THIS THING---OR YOU'RE THROUGH HERE!



---SO THAT'S THE STORY, PEGGY! EITHER I SOLVE THIS MYSTERY, OR I'M OUT OF A JOB!



WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER, JIM! WHAT A STORY IT WILL MAKE! AND--- WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED ON THE BONUS!

AND SO THEY INTERVIEWED THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING PEOPLE! BUT NOT A SINGLE CLUE, UNTIL---



HARRY JUST UP AND DISAPPEARED FROM THIS VERY ROOM! THE ONLY THING I NOTICED WHEN I CAME HOME WAS A STRANGE KIND OF ODOR---

STRANGE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW---SOMETHING LIKE--WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THE SMELL OF AN OLD GRAVEYARD!



IT WAS ONLY A SLIGHT LEAD---BUT IT GAVE JIM BANKS AN IDEA!



IT'S WILD, BUT IT MIGHT WORK! WE'LL GET A DOG--- AND HOPE IT PICKS UP THE TRAIL!

SUTTON KENNELS BLOODHOUND ENTRANCE

THE TRAIL STARTED FROM THE OFFICE OF JEREMY WALLACE, MOST RECENT VICTIM OF THE ODD DISAPPEARANCES! THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY THEY WENT, GAPED AT BY PASSERS-BY, UNTIL, LATE THAT NIGHT---



THE BLOODHOUND---HE'S BROKEN AWAY! ALMOST AS IF HE SENSED SOMETHING INSIDE THAT WAREHOUSE THAT TERRIFIED HIM!

WHATEVER IT IS--- I'M GOING IN, PEGGY!

BETTER LET ME GO ALONE! HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT I MAY FIND INSIDE!



UH-UH---I'M COMING ALONG! THIS STORY-- AND YOUR JOB---ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT TO ME AS THEY ARE TO YOU!

AND SO THEY ENTERED... TO HORROR! TO A SUDDEN, DEADLY ONSLAUGHT BY MEN... WITHOUT FACES!

JIM! HELP ME!

GOOD LORD! THESE THINGS... THEY... THEY CAN'T BE HUMAN!



THEY'RE... TOO MANY FOR ME...

OVERCOME BY THEIR FACELESS CAPTORS, JIM AND PEGGY WERE DRAGGED TO A CELL DEEP WITHIN THE OLD WAREHOUSE! THERE---

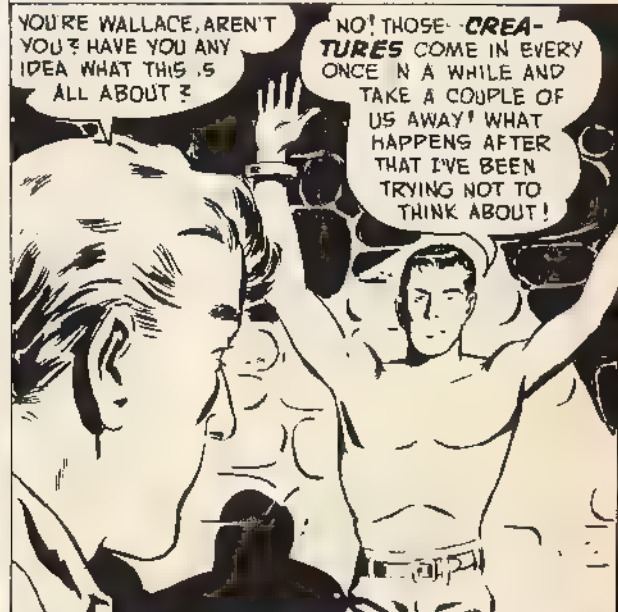
THESE ARE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED! BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

THEY... THEY GOT ME WHEN I WAS COMING OUT OF MY HOUSE... I NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT ME... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?



YOU'RE WALLACE, AREN'T YOU? HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

NO! THOSE CREATURES COME IN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AND TAKE A COUPLE OF US AWAY! WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT!



LATER---

THESE CREEPS ARE TAKING US SOMEWHERE! BUT DON'T WORRY-- WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS SOMEHOW!

I'M... AFRAID, JIM!



THROUGH THE MUSTY CORRIDORS... INTO A RESPLENDENT HIDDEN CHAMBER! AND THERE A FANTASTIC SIGHT-- AS IF FROM SOME LONG-DEAD WORLD OF ANCIENT TERROR---

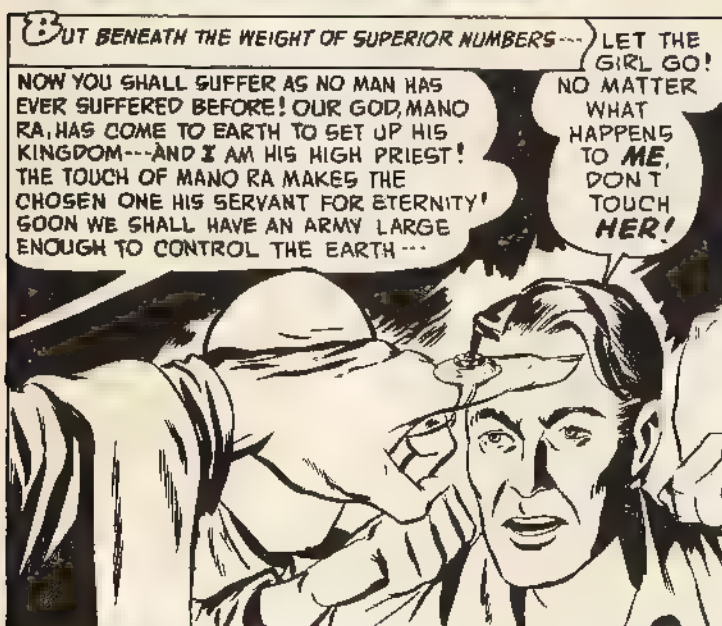
O GREAT MANO RA... O SERPENT-GOD... HERE ARE MORE SERVANTS FOR YOU! COME DOWN FROM THE LAND BENEATH THE SUN-- AND RECEIVE THEM!

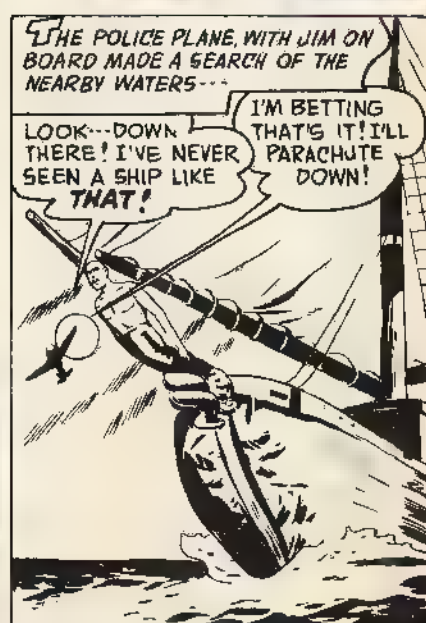
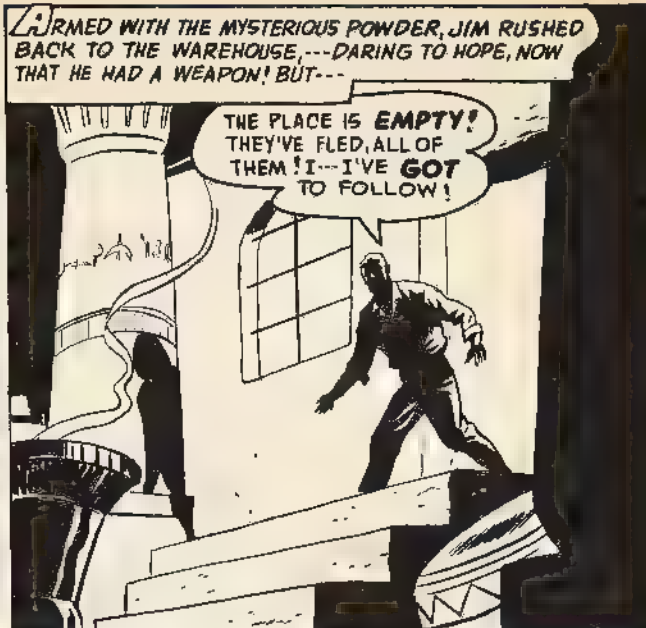
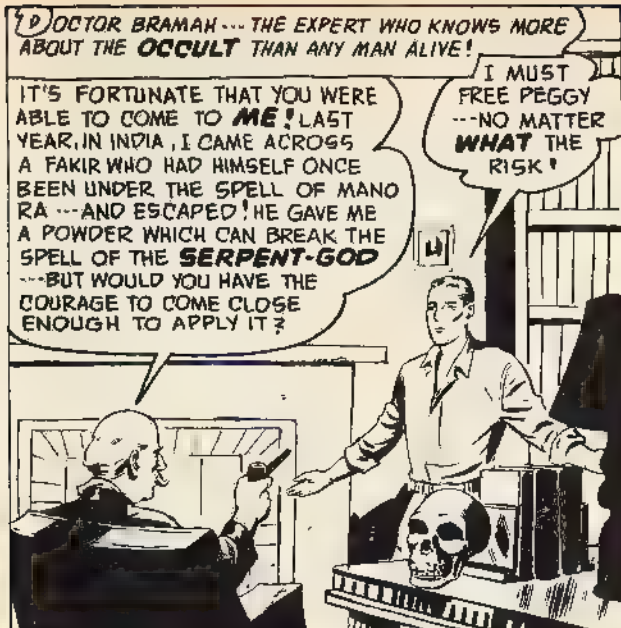


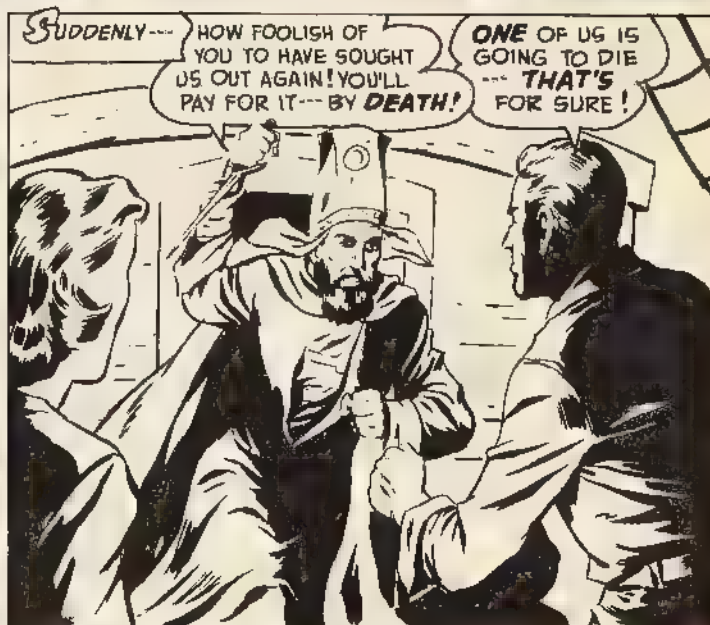
AS IF IN ANSWER... AN AWFUL APPARITION!

IT IS GOOD! LET THE FIRST BE BROUGHT TO ME!













LADY of DEATH



GOOD WORK, MY DEAR! NOW, INTO THE CAR WITH HIM!

THE CONCEITED FOOL THINKING I WAS ATTRACTED TO HIM! HE'LL **DESERVE** WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM!

LATER THE SAME SPOT, TWENTY FOUR HOURS LATER...

WAKE HIM UP! JOE---AND SEND THE OLD MAN ON HIS WAY!

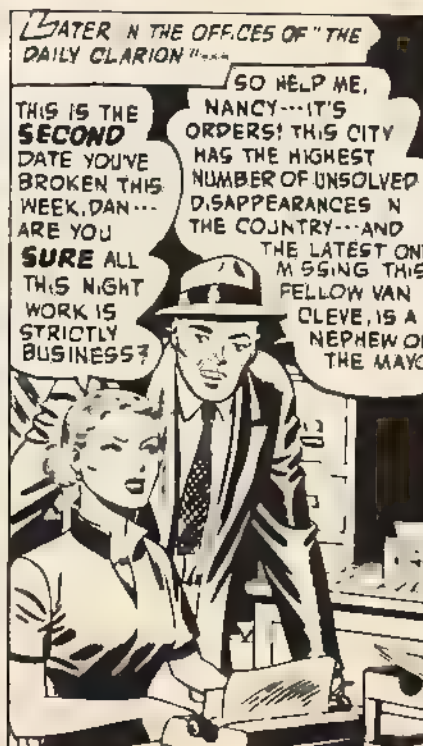
THERE'LL BE NO WAKING HIM, MAC! THIS IS A JOB FOR THE **CORONER!** HE'S DEAD!

A SOCIETY PLAYBOY VANISHES--- AN UNIDENTIFIED HOBO IS FOUND DEAD IN AN ALLEY---TWO UNRELATED EVENTS IN THE VIOLENT NIGHT-LIFE OF A BIG CITY! BUT IS THAT **ALL**--- OR IS THERE A DANGER ABOARD THAT MOCKS THE HELPLESS GUARDIANS OF MAN-MADE LAW---A GRIM TERROR STRIKING FROM THE UNFATHOMABLE REACHES OF THE **UNKNOWN?**



AT THE CITY MORGUE---

NO USE TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE OLD TRAMP, DAN---WE PICK UP A DOZEN LIKE HIM EVERY WEEK! BUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THAT PLAYBOY VAN CLEVE HAS GOT THE COMMISSIONER UP IN THE AIR! DROP EVERYTHING AND GET BUSY ON IT!



LATER IN THE OFFICES OF "THE DAILY CLARION"...

THIS IS THE **SECOND** DATE YOU'VE BROKEN THIS WEEK, DAN--- ARE YOU **SURE** ALL THIS NIGHT WORK IS STRICTLY BUSINESS?

SO HELP ME, NANCY---IT'S ORDERS! THIS CITY HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF UNSOLVED DISAPPEARANCES IN THE COUNTRY---AND THE LATEST ONE MISSING THIS FELLOW VAN CLEVE, IS A NEPHEW OF THE MAYOR!



WHEN AS DAN PAINSTAKINGLY CHECKED THE LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF VAN CLEVE---

YEAH HE WAS ALONE! LEFT HERE, COLD SOBER BEFORE MIDNIGHT! SAID SHE WAS GOING RIGHT HOME!

CAN'T BE SURE, BUT I THINK IT WAS HIM CAME BY HERE ABOUT MIDNIGHT---HE HAD A YOUNG LADY WITH HIM!



LATE THAT NIGHT---

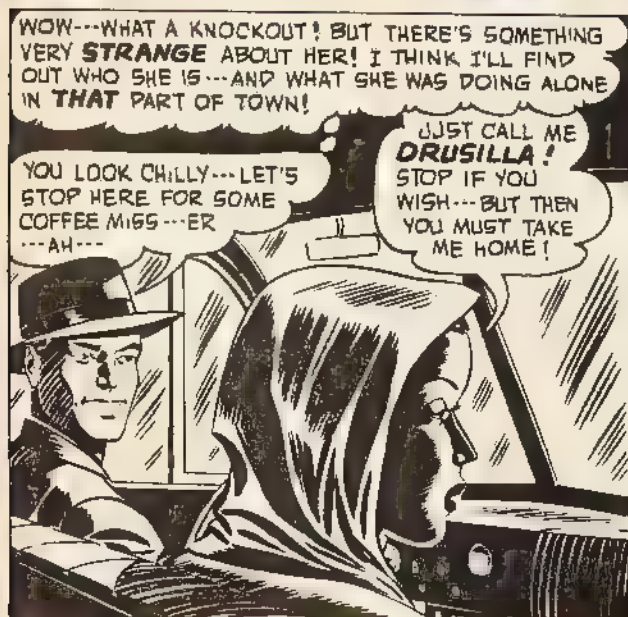
IT'S HOPELESS! I'VE CHECKED EVERY POSSIBLE LEAD, BUT AFTER THE TIME THAT NEWSDEALER SAW HIM, HE SEEMS TO HAVE JUST **VANISHED!** JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

HELLO---
WHAT'S
THIS?



OH THANK YOU FOR STOPPING! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A CAB, AND IT IS GROWING SO LATE, I--- I WONDER IF YOU---

SURE, BEAUTIFUL HOP N--- THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL LIKE **YOU** TO BE UNESCORTED!



WOW---WHAT A KNOCKOUT! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY **STRANGE** ABOUT HER! I THINK I'LL FIND OUT WHO SHE IS---AND WHAT SHE WAS DOING ALONE IN **THAT** PART OF TOWN!

YOU LOOK CHILLY---LET'S STOP HERE FOR SOME COFFEE MUGS---ER---AH---

JUST CALL ME **DRUSILLA!** STOP IF YOU WISH---BUT THEN YOU MUST TAKE ME HOME!



SOON AFTERWARDS---
YOU HAVEN'T **TOUCHED** YOUR COFFEE---WOULD YOU PREFER SOMETHING ELSE?

NO, THANK YOU, DAN--- YOU ARE VERY KIND--- REALLY QUITE GENTLEMANLY AND CHARMING---FOR A MAN OF **YOUR** GENERATION!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN--- 'A MAN OF **MY** GENERATION'?! YOU SOUND LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER AND YOU CAN'T BE MORE THAN TWENTY!

YOU ARE GALLANT, SIR! BUT LISTEN, THEY'RE PLAYING A WALTZ---IT'S BEEN **GENERATIONS** SINCE I FELT LIKE DANCING!

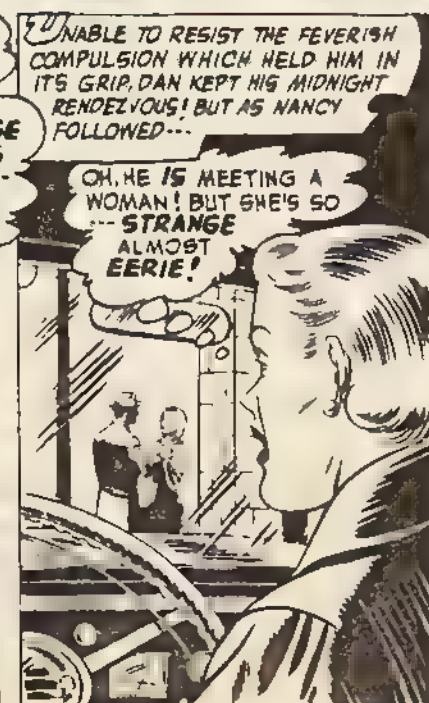
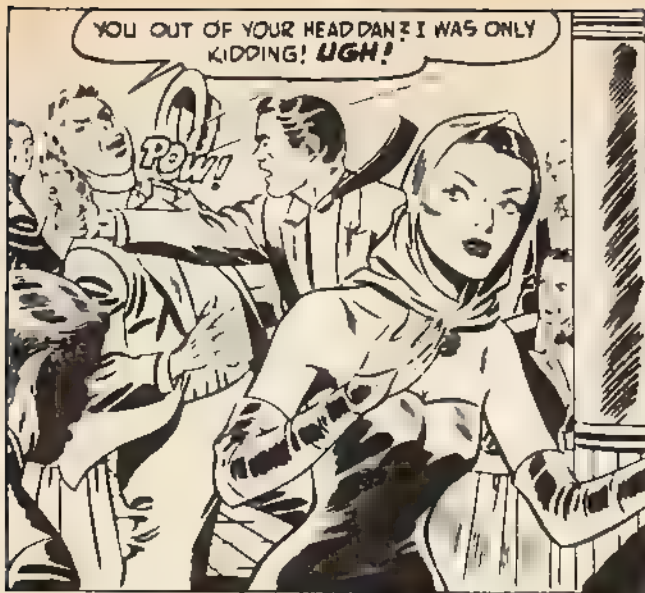


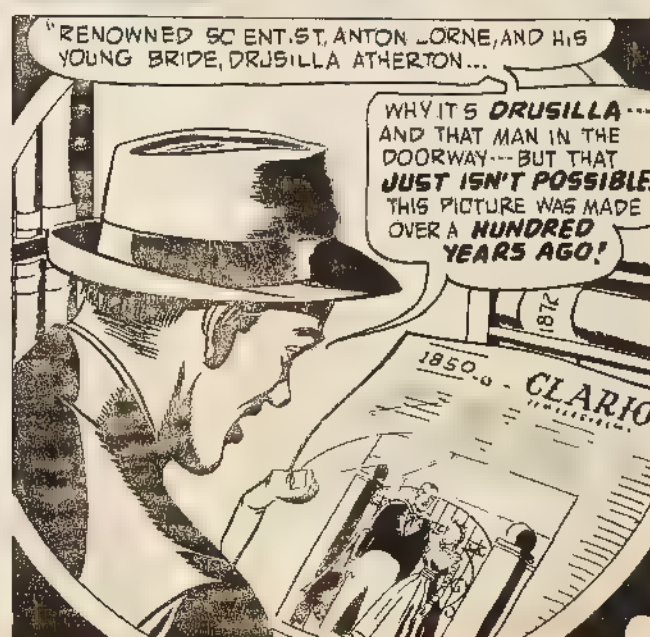
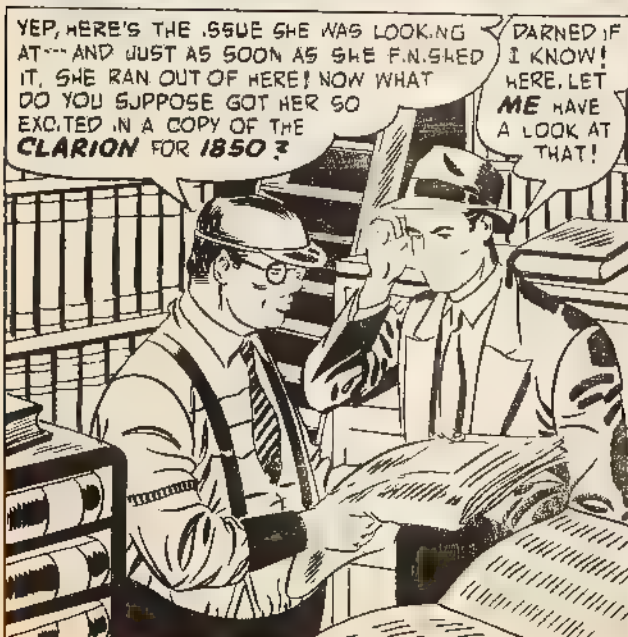
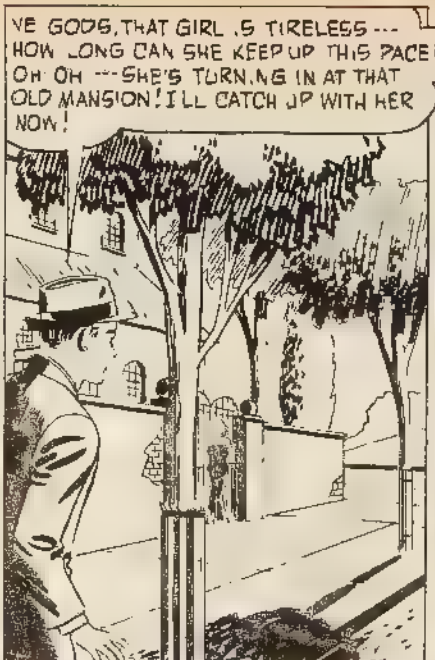
I DON'T GET IT---I KNOW I'M IN **LOVE** WITH NANCY BUT IT'S AS THOUGH SOME **HYPNOTIC FORCE** IS DRAWING ME TO HER---**IRRESISTIBLY!** OH-OH, THERE'S A REPORTER FROM THE **CLARION!**



WELL, DAN, OLD BOY---SO **THIS** IS THE URGENT ASSIGNMENT YOU BROKE A DATE WITH NANCY FOR! PRETTY SLICK!

WHY, YOU---





THERE'S SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS AND INCREDIBLY EVIL GOING ON IN THAT CREEPY OLD MANSION! **GOOD GRIEF, I WONDER IF NANCY...**



DRIVEN BY A GRIM PREMONITION DAN RACED FOR THE STARK SEPULCHRAL OLD HOUSE WHERE HE HAD LEFT DRUSILLA THE NIGHT BEFORE! THERE...



THAT'S **NANCY'S** CAR! AND IT'S ODD... BUT **THERE ARE NO LIGHTS ON IN THE HOUSE!**

DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EXPLAIN **THIS** TO THE CHIEF. IF MY HUNCH IS WRONG!



NOTHING IN HERE BUT CLOTHING... SOME OF IT ALMOST **NEW!** I WONDER...



GREAT SCOTT! THE INITIALS ON THIS TUXEDO ARE "RVC" AND IT HAS THE LABEL OF **VAN CLEVE'S** PERSONAL TAILOR! THIS IS THE SUIT HE WAS WEARING WHEN HE **DISAPPEARED!**



AND HERE'S A HANDBAG BELONGING TO THAT YOUNG WOMAN WHO DISAPPEARED LAST WINTER... AND THE COAT OF A MAN WHO'S BEEN MISSING FOR **FIVE YEARS!** YE GODS... WHAT **DIABOLICAL FORCE** IS AT WORK IN THIS HOUSE?



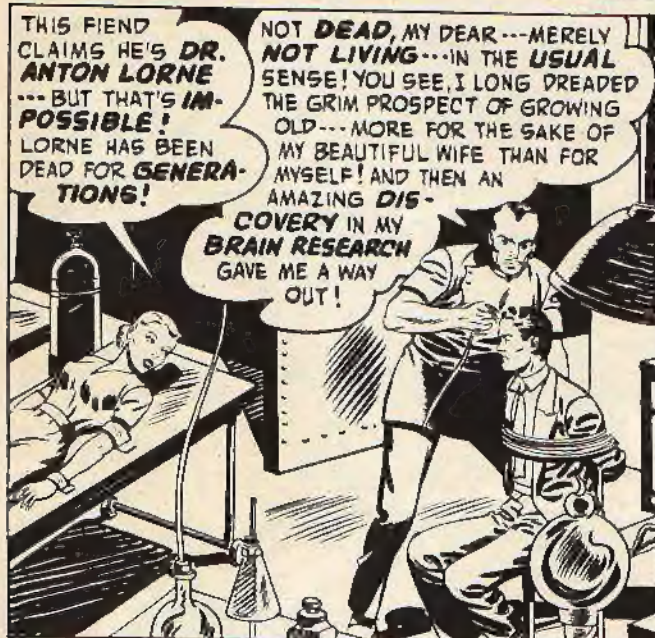
THEN... AN APPALLING DISCOVERY...

GOOD GRIEF! HERE'S NANCY'S EARRING!





AS THE LAST SLUG FINALLY SHATTERED THE LOCK, AND DAN BURST INTO THE ROOM...



YES, PERIODIC INJECTIONS OF A CEREBRAL ESSENCE EXTRACTED FROM THE PETROXIOD GLAND HAVE ENABLED MY WIFE AND I TO EXIST IN SUSPENDED YOUTHFULNESS FOR ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS!



SUDDENLY, WITH THE DESPERATE STRENGTH OF THE DOOMED, DAN FREED HIMSELF AND LUNGED FORWARD...



AGHHH!

WHAM!



YOU FOOL...YOUR HANDS ARE STILL TAPED TOGETHER! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!



YOU SHALL NOT HARM HIM, ANTON!

ARE YOU MAD, DRUSILLA? YOU KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU IF---AARGH!

BANG! BANG!



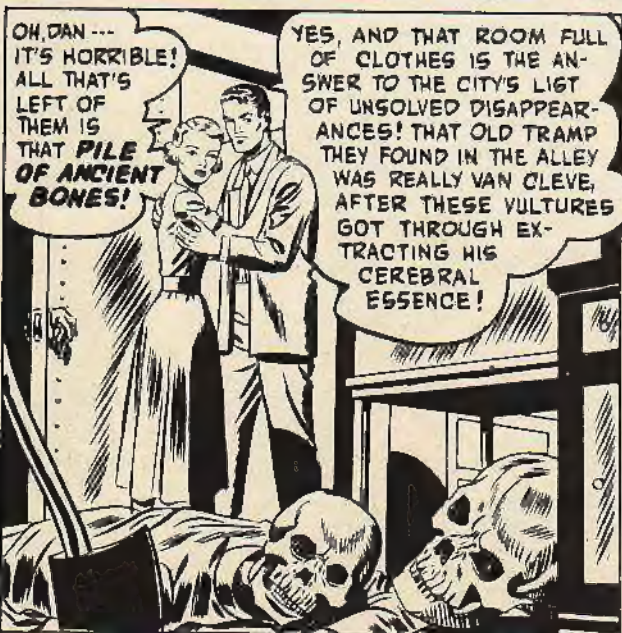
MOMENTS LATER---

YOU CAME THROUGH JUST IN TIME, DRUSILLA, I--- GREAT SCOTT, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?

GOOD HEAVENS... SHE'S BECOMING AN OLD WOMAN! SHE'S WITHERING BEFORE OUR EYES!



THEN IN ONE GHASTLY MOMENT, THE RAVAGES OF A HUNDRED YEARS TOOK THEIR GRUESOME TOLL! THE LOVELY GIRL FADED TO A SKELETAL DRONE---AS THE PARCHED FLESH CRUMBLLED TO DUST!



OH, DAN --- IT'S HORRIBLE! ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THEM IS THAT PILE OF ANCIENT BONES!

YES, AND THAT ROOM FULL OF CLOTHES IS THE ANSWER TO THE CITY'S LIST OF UNSOLVED DISAPPEARANCES! THAT OLD TRAMP THEY FOUND IN THE ALLEY WAS REALLY VAN CLEVE, AFTER THESE VULTURES GOT THROUGH EXTRACTING HIS CEREBRAL ESSENCE!



TO THINK THAT WE WERE ALMOST TWO MORE NAMES ON THE MISSING LIST! DARLING, PROMISE ME YOU'LL WATCH YOUR STEP WITH STRANGE WOMEN FROM NOW ON!

OKAY, IF YOU'LL KEEP THAT POSTPONED DATE WITH ME TONIGHT! DON'T FORGET, WE CAN ONLY COUNT ON A NORMAL LIFE-SPAN, SO LET'S NOT WASTE A MINUTE OF IT!

The End

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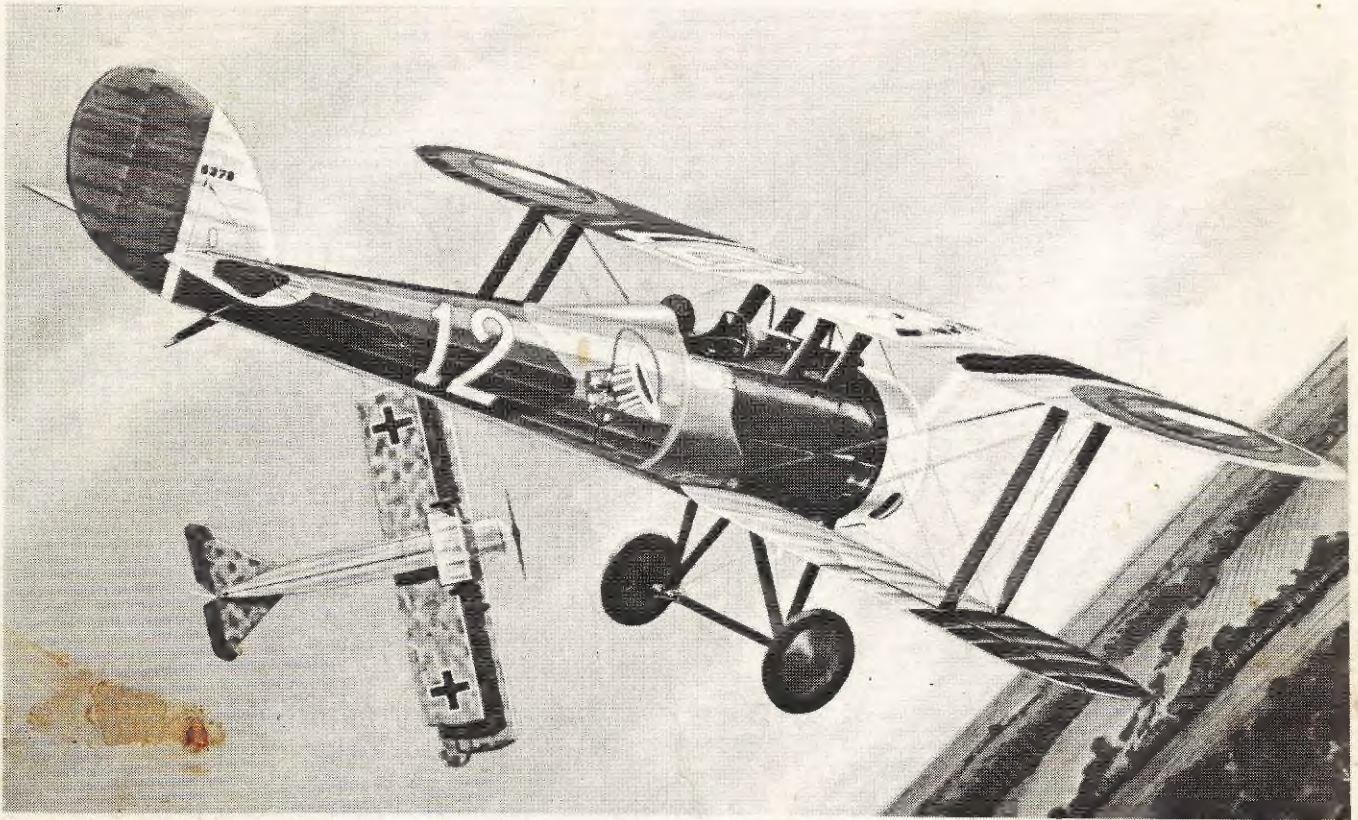
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